



Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs, Members of the Committee:

My name is Je Amaechi, and I'm the Organizing Director of Unite Oregon. For 20 years, UO has fought to ensure Oregon's BIPOC, immigrant, refugee, and other marginalized communities are not ignored by those in power. We stand here today to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 238.

While framed as a tool for "community safety," SB 238 will expand unchecked surveillance in neighborhoods already burdened by over-policing. Drones equipped with zoom lenses, night vision, or AI analytics can peer into backyards, windows, and private moments. Let me be clear: This bill sacrifices civil liberties under the guise of security, and its consequences will fall hardest on Black, Brown, and low-income Oregonians.

SB 238 has no requirement for public reporting, judicial oversight, or data retention limits. Without transparency, how will we know if drones disproportionately target certain demographics? Without strict rules, how will we stop police from sharing footage with ICE, facial recognition databases, or private contractors?

The bill also ignores critical questions: Will drone data feed AI systems that amplify racial profiling? Who ensures recordings of domestic violence survivors or mental health crises are deleted? These gaps are not minor—they are dangerous.

Proponents claim drones "de-escalate" situations, but study after study shows surveillance tools deepen disparities. Over-policed communities—already subjected to helicopters, stop-and-frisk, and biased 911 calls—will face even more trauma. Drones won't stop crime; they'll amplify the criminalization of poverty, homelessness, and dissent.

If safety is the goal, fund mental health responders, affordable housing, and community-led crisis programs—not police toys. Oregon deserves policies that build trust, not tools that automate discrimination.

Members of the Committee, SB 238 is a gateway to pervasive aerial surveillance, sold with empty promises of restraint. We cannot afford to sleepwalk into a dystopia where police drones hover over schools, protests, and front porches. Is that the kind of future you want?

If not, Vote NO (on SB 238.) Thank you.