

Submitter:

Karim Bouris

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB238

My name is Karim Bouris and I live in Redmond. I am writing to strongly oppose SB 238A, as it's a bill that will allow police and sheriffs to use drones for surveillance that is written in such a vague manner that you should all be significantly more cautious before putting it on the docket like this. This bill, without any provisions either for the types of situations that would warrant this technological use or of the ways in which the data collected would be used, amounts to an open-ended authorization for law enforcement to spy on your constituents.

And you'd be allowing them to do so without the most basic of legal guardrails: warrants, which means without court oversight. These drones could be used to surveil protests, abortion clinics, residential neighborhoods, churches, farms, ranches, parks, and whatever else local law enforcement would define as "threatening" to their communities, air quotes intentionally present for emphasis on how easy that definition could be misinterpreted and abused.

I certainly would not allow any law enforcement agency to enter my personal property without due process or warrant.

I'll also point out the blatant infringement on everyone's right to privacy: I do not accept for a drone to collect video of me doing landscaping work or building on my property, entertaining family and friends on my patio, or deciding to take a dip naked in my hot tub. I doubt you would either.

This is an unnecessary and dangerous expansion of law enforcement authority that borders on the ridiculous. At a time when the U.S federal government is weakening civil liberties and on the verge of becoming an authoritarian government, the alst thing we need is for Salem to make it easier for them.