

Submitter: Nancy Payne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Citizen Testimony:

My name is Nancy Payne and I live in Bend. 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 a vague way that leaves too much room for error. This bill, without any provisions either for the scenarios 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 US citizens and Oregon residents.

The bill seems to leave out the most basic of legal guardrails: warrants that need 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. This is far too open to individual interpretation.

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 anything on my property. Do you?

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 slipping dangerously toward authoritarianism, Oregonians do not need you to make that slide easier. Thank you for your time.