

Submitter:

Edith Britts

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB238

As an Oregonian, I believe in the basic rights of privacy, freedom of speech, and protest — which are under attack across the country. The right to speak out and organize or go about our daily lives without fear of surveillance is fundamental to a healthy democracy. Oregon should be leading the way in protecting our civil liberties, not creating new laws that expand unchecked police surveillance of everyday people. Police surveillance is chilling and undermines our fundamental constitutional freedoms.

SB 238A would greatly expand the use of drones by law enforcement in Oregon. This bill removes critical court oversight of police and sheriffs in Oregon when they are using powerful and invasive technology. In our democracy, the courts are supposed to be a check on unfettered authority and potential abuses of power by law enforcement. That is why Oregonians support the Fourth Amendment and the Oregon Constitution, which require police and sheriffs to go to court to get a warrant.