

Multnomah County District 2

Vote no on SB 238A

Dear legislators

For the record, my name is Shannon Singleton and I am a Multnomah County Commissioner representing District 2, which includes North and Northeast Portland. I am writing to urge a no vote on SB 238A. It is a dangerous bill with broad language that will not lead to safer communities or repair trust.

Passing this bill would further harm law enforcement's already strained relationship with equity priority communities. Communities are already fearful of law enforcement due to national rhetoric and behavior. History has shown us clearly—surveillance powers that are not controlled are often used to watch, scare, and silence people who disagree. This is especially true for protesters, activists, and communities that are already overly policed. Also, if drone data is shared with federal authorities, it could be used by the Trump administration to identify and track the people he is increasingly targeting and harassing.

SB 238A would greatly expand the use of drones by law enforcement in Oregon. This bill leaves it to police and sheriffs, not the courts, to make decisions about the use of these drones. Last week, Federal ICE agents started detaining people in Portland who were simply showing up for their immigration hearings, the National Guard was sent to Los Angeles, and communities are fearing an economic downturn through the loss of services. Now is not the time to further erode trust.

At a time when many of us are already worried about government overreach, SB 238A would remove important protections that keep police surveillance in check. I urge a no vote on this overly broad legislation.

In solidarity,



Shannon Singleton

Multnomah County Commissioner for District 2