



To Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Pham and Drazan, and members of the House Committee on Rules

We are members of Justice Advocates, a grassroots group in the Portland area that promotes criminal justice reforms, and we strongly oppose **SB 238A**. We are asking the Rules Committee to vote NO.

To begin with, this is unnecessary legislation, because Oregon already has adequate laws that allow for police use of drones, both for search & rescue and for pursuit of law breakers. These laws require police to get warrants from a judge, but also allows for exceptions in emergency situations where it can be shown that it would not be possible to get a warrant in time to be effective.

How SB 238A differs from laws we already have is that it doesn't require the warrant protections. This is what we strongly oppose. It doesn't matter if the proponents of this bill claim that it would not be used to infringe on people's privacy or to target certain communities on the basis of their race, nationality, neighborhood, or immigration status. Under the language of this bill, these violations can happen, and now more than ever Oregonians must make sure all our residents are protected from targeting.

Used correctly, drones can be very helpful. Do not pass legislation that can allow warrantless drones to be used to violate Oregonians' civil liberties.

Layla Assem  
Alicia Polacok  
Sue Caddell  
Sally Joughin  
Lanny Brenner