

Submitter: Smitha Chadaga
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Dear Chair Bowman and Esteemed Members of the Committee,
I strongly oppose SB 238A.

SB 238A would allow law enforcement agencies to deploy drones in a wide variety of situations without a court warrant, and in large numbers.

This bill will leave the decision to violate the privacy of Oregonians entirely in the hands of police and sheriffs. This means that law enforcement could use drones to surveil the lawful activities and everyday life of our communities with absolutely no judicial accountability.

Unchecked surveillance powers inevitably lead to abuse: like monitoring, intimidating and silencing dissent - in particular targeting protestors, activists, and communities that are already over-policed.

In addition, there are no safeguards against drone data being shared with federal authorities.

At this moment, there is an overt authoritarianism which seems poised to veer into outright fascism. SB 238A is the LAST thing Oregonians need right now.

Thank you,

Smitha

Smitha R Chadaga MD FHM FACP