

Submitter: Rachel Crane  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Dear Chair Bowman and Distinguished Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 238A.

This legislation would grant law enforcement broad authority to deploy drone surveillance without requiring judicial oversight through warrants, potentially in significant numbers across various scenarios.

My primary concern centers on how SB 238A places decisions about citizen privacy entirely under the discretion of police departments and sheriff's offices. This framework would enable law enforcement to monitor the daily activities and lawful conduct of community members without any court supervision or accountability measures.

History demonstrates that surveillance powers without proper checks and balances are prone to misuse, including the monitoring and intimidation of lawful dissent. This particularly affects protesters, activists, and communities that already face disproportionate law enforcement attention.

Furthermore, the bill lacks provisions preventing the sharing of drone-collected data with federal agencies. This creates potential pathways for information to reach federal authorities who may target vulnerable populations, including immigrants, refugees, individuals seeking reproductive or gender-affirming care, and those exercising their right to political expression.

Given the current political climate and growing concerns about governmental overreach, SB 238A represents precisely the type of legislation Oregon should avoid at this critical time.

I urge you to vote against this measure and protect the privacy rights of all Oregonians. Thank you