

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 238A in its amended version. Please prioritize Oregonians rights and civil liberties and oppose this bill.

Police departments across the State of Oregon, including the Lake Oswego police department, have lobbied quite successfully for greater access to drones. I thought it might help you make an informed vote, if you understand the sort of calls the Lake Oswego police department has to deal with on a routine basis. Here are a few examples from May.¹

5/23 12:50 p.m. A person said a rock hit their car near a construction zone around the 2500 block of Country Club Road. *A drone is clearly the appropriate response.*

5/23 2:52 p.m. A resident said they owned a plot in the community garden at Luscher Farm and a previous owner asked them to return three trellis that they'd purchased. The resident said no, and then the trellis disappeared. They suspected the previous owner stole them. *May the trellis mystery finally be resolved! With drones!*

5/23 4:48 p.m. A woman was asking for money in a parking lot and refusing to leave near the 10 block of Monroe Parkway. **Instead of helping a person in need, we can surveil them! This will do wonders for police relationships with community members.*

5/23 6:44 p.m. A person was reportedly "blasting" music and moving trash cans so other kids couldn't use a skate park near the 18000 block of Stafford Road. *How else to respond? Drone.*

5/24 10:48 a.m. Someone was heard yelling "help, please stop!" near the 300 block of 2nd Street. It turned out they were accidentally locked in a room. *Surely, the ideal response for all members of the public locked in public bathrooms. "Never fear, a surveillance drone is en route!"*

And, perhaps, most aptly:

5/24 12:23 p.m. A resident said they saw a drone (!) flying near the 1700 block of Ridgecrest Drive and it seemed like "a good day to use a drone to scope out to commit a theft." *What happens when someone calls to report the police drone? Will the police then need to acquire further drones to surveil their own drones?*

In all seriousness, drones will not make us more safe. For actual emergencies, police can already use drones at their discretion. This Bill would, quite simply, eviscerate Oregonians' privacy rights. Please, in this moment, we need your leadership and your courage. Do the right thing. Vote no on SB238A.

Thank you,
Emily Hawley

¹ Police Blotter, *Lake Oswego Review*, June 3, 2025.