

Submitter: Teresa Raiford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Statement on SB 238A
By Teresa Raiford, Founder of Don't Shoot Portland

“It is not news to us that Oregon lawmakers are once again moving to expand law enforcement surveillance powers—this time through the unregulated use of drones—without meaningful community input or oversight.

History teaches us that the communities not invited to shape these decisions are often the first to be surveilled and harmed. Marginalized, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and activist communities have consistently been targeted by state surveillance as an act of intimidation and retaliation.

SB 238A opens the door to warrantless spying on Oregonians, expanding the reach of law enforcement without adequate protections for civil liberties. At a time when trust in public institutions is already strained, this bill will deepen divisions and disproportionately impact those already subject to state violence.

If lawmakers truly wish to protect all Oregonians, they will reject this bill. But rejecting it is not enough. They must also commit to building trust and transparency by centering the voices of those most impacted—especially those targeted for organizing against state-sanctioned violence.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 238A. Your vote is not just a policy choice—it is a test of your commitment to civil rights and community safety. History will remember how you chose.”