



June 13, 2025

To: House Committee on Rules

Subject: OPPOSE SB 238

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

My name is Cynthia Ramirez, and I'm a Policy Associate at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. At PCUN, we strive to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working and living conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy. In these times of political uncertainty and fear within our communities, the last thing we need is unnecessary surveillance on our streets. Therefore, on behalf of PCUN, I am writing to express our opposition to SB 238A.

SB 238A grants law enforcement the discretion to use aerial surveillance technology – drones – with minimal oversight by the courts and with vague, insufficient limitations on their discretion. This undermines fundamental constitutional rights, including privacy and free speech. SB 238A not only represents an invasion of privacy but also contributes to the heightened fear in an already tense political climate where our communities lack trust and feel unsafe around law enforcement. We have already seen community members being too afraid to leave their homes for essential activities, such as visiting hospitals, going shopping, and more. SB 238A would exacerbate this fear in our communities and cause harm to the state. We already witness law enforcement violating individuals' rights in broad daylight; who can guarantee that they will adhere to the constraints intended by SB 238A?

If SB 238A were to pass, Oregon would be on the same path as other countries that restrict people's freedoms. We claim to value freedom of speech, the right to organize without fear of government intrusion and spying, and our other basic human rights. We do not want our community subjected to surveillance, whether we are pro-democracy protesters, ranchers, farmers, hunters, or are just simply living in this state. Advancing this bill goes against our constitutional principles.

This bill expands law enforcement authority at the expense of courts and communities, without necessary public consultation, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based

policy design. There is no valid reason to rush this bill — and undermine the rights of people across the state — without sufficient guardrails.

I urge you to please vote NO on SB 238A.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ramirez
Policy Associate
PCUN