

I am writing today to submit a position of formal neutrality regarding SB 1516. This is not a reflection of the bill's merits or a sign of indifference, rather, it is a refusal to lend legitimacy to what I view as a fundamentally broken legislative process.

This bill reads as a masterclass in how to prioritize third-party interests. The process here has played out more like a negotiation for industry convenience than a deliberative body crafting strong policy for the public good. My neutrality is a direct response to the bogus process itself.

I recognize there are those advocating for this bill, arguing it is "better than nothing", and that we can patch its glaring holes with end-to-end encryption language. I understand their concern and their desire to create good policy, but the ALPR framework laid out in SB 1516 may as well have come from a vendor's standard software agreement. Adding encryption to a surveillance apparatus does not transform it into a civil liberties protection; it merely encrypts the surveillance.

The compromises codified within this bill are too great to overlook:

- The regulation of automated license plate readers must be done in a standalone bill that rightfully categorizes them as mass surveillance devices. By placing these regulations within an omnibus, this committee has avoided the rigorous and focused debate that a technology of this scale deserves.
- We cannot allow the normalization of state-sponsored tracking, on vendors' terms, under the guise of an "investigatory aid". By moving forward with this bill, you are setting a precedent that freedom of movement is a commodity to be monitored, that state surveillance is a condition of existing in public, and that the State of Oregon is willing to rush through the codification of a transformative technology that legislators clearly still do not understand.

I am not only asking for a better bill, I am asking for a better process. I am asking you to stop folding critical surveillance

legislation into vehicles that discourage public scrutiny and minimize the boots-on-the-neck reality of mass data collection.

You have a duty to define the scope of state power clearly, responsibly, and publicly. SB 1516 is a betrayal of your responsibility to the people of Oregon. I cannot, in good faith, participate in or support a framework that treats our data as a tradeable asset for vendors and favors operational convenience over sound policy.

Good day!