

**KHANH PHAM**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
DISTRICT 23



April 17, 2025

Obie Rutledge  
Chief Clerk of the Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

Please accept this letter as a vote explanation for Senate Bill 238.

I want to begin by expressing appreciation for the thoughtful work of my colleagues and our law enforcement partners who developed this legislation. I share the goal of ensuring that our officers have access to appropriate tools to keep our communities safe, particularly as technology evolves.

However, I remain concerned about the expansion of surveillance authority. SB 238 marks a shift in how unmanned aerial systems—drones—may be used across Oregon. It opens the door to expanded use in our neighborhoods and public spaces without the level of transparency, accountability, or public engagement that our communities likely expect.

Current Oregon law already permits the use of drones in many appropriate contexts—search and rescue, emergencies, and criminal investigations—with important guardrails, including the requirement of a warrant in many cases. These protections help maintain public trust and ensure that civil liberties are respected.

As we consider expanding this authority, I believe we need more robust public dialogue about what problems we are solving, the risks of unintended consequences, and how we preserve privacy and constitutional rights in this new technological landscape.

For these reasons, while I support this bill, I urge my colleagues and our community partners to continue working to ensure that the legislation has sufficient safeguards and limitations.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Khanh Pham".

Khanh Pham  
State Senator - District 23