

Submitter: Neil Henke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB812

February 12, 2023

Chairman Jeff Golden
Committee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: OPPOSE OR SB 812

Dear Chairman Golden and Committee:

I write to you today as a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and a resident of the state of Oregon. As a model aviator, I am opposed to Senate Bill 812, relating to the take-off and landing of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from park property. AMA is a nationwide, FAA-recognized Community-Based Organization of 180,000 model aviation enthusiasts, with nearly 4,000 members living in Oregon. For more than 85 years, AMA has successfully managed the recreational UAS community by providing robust safety guidelines and training programs. All AMA members follow this strict safety program and have the benefit of a \$2.5 million liability insurance policy that comes with membership. AMA members know where and how to fly responsibly and have a strong safety record.

Rather than a blanket restriction on take-off and landing of UAS, I would encourage Oregon governments and park departments to find alternative solutions. Examples would be to only place restrictions on environmentally sensitive locations, or to designate flying site locations within parks where safe UAS operations can take place without endangerment to wildlife.

Model aviation is more than a hobby, it's an effective tool for inspiring young people to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics that are becoming increasingly vital to our future. In fact, without drone technology, we would find ourselves without an effective tool that assists with conservation efforts, not only in Oregon, but nationwide.

Respectfully,

Neil Henke

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