

Submitter: Robert Crump  
On Behalf Of: RC Aircraft Modelers and Clubs  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB812

I am providing this testimony in opposition to SB 812. I am an active model aircraft hobbyist and have been so for more than 50 years. I have flown all types of model aircraft powered and sailplanes. Lately I have observed the proliferation of powered drones that virtually anyone can purchase at a toy store and wind up being flown just about anywhere without regard for safety, privacy or impact on wildlife. Modelers who are licensed by the A.M.A. And follow the AMA safety code are not the source of the problem you're trying to fix. Recently the AMA chartered club of which I was President lost their flying field due to a rail yard development. We were promised a new site to fly but that didn't happen. The club wound up dissolving and no longer exists. Most of our members were older retired gentlemen many of whom were veterans with a love for aero modeling. This situation is getting worse. Flying sites are being lost to development and airspace is being taken away from hobbyists. If you're interested in this problem, Rep. Kevin Mannix who is also an attorney was representing the developer. You might talk with him about the problem. There was some state owned land that could have made quite a nice flying site for the club but the land was under lease to a local farmer who wasn't interested in subleasing to our club even though the state land use plan gives a priority to recreational use.

Recently while on a trip to the Oregon coast with one of my unpowered sailplanes I was searching for site to do some slope soaring. Almost every site that looked promising was posted with a State of Oregon sign saying "no drone flying". I wanted to fly an unpowered sailplane not a "drone". If the State is interested in helping the situation I suggest helping modelers with new flying sites rather than more restrictions on a model aircraft. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely, Robert Crump, AMA 3668