

Submitter: Frances Smith Nevill  
On Behalf Of: Safer Streets for All  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

On behalf of Safer Streets for All, a pedestrian and roadway safety advocacy organization, I write in support of Oregon Senate Bill 1516. We appreciate that the bill provides meaningful privacy protections for Oregonians with respect to automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology.

We are particularly grateful that the bill exempts speed and red-light cameras from the definition of ALPR. Traffic safety cameras are fundamentally different from ALPR systems such as those deployed by Flock Safety and Axon. In our communities, traffic safety cameras are used for a narrow and critical purpose: protecting children, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users.

We would like to respectfully flag one issue for consideration. As currently drafted, we do not believe the bill explicitly exempts school bus stop-arm cameras, which are authorized under ORS 811.156 and serve an essential child safety function. These cameras, like speed and red-light cameras, are designed to deter dangerous driving behavior—not to conduct broad vehicle tracking.

If there is an opportunity to clarify that school bus stop-arm cameras are included within the traffic safety camera exclusion, we would strongly encourage that amendment to ensure consistency with the bill's treatment of other roadway safety technologies.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your consideration.