



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1101		DATE: 3/3/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 11:54 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS EDGAR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-346-2243	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CAMDEN CO. SHERIFF's OFFICE AND SHERIFF's UNITED		TITLE: SHERIFF	
ADDRESS: 1 COURT CIR. NW SUIT 13			
CITY: CAMDENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65020
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY RIDENHOUR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Mach1Mustang@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 3:26 PM

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I am in support of HB 1101. There should not be any use of unmanned aircraft for surveillance of any property or persons.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRITTON FERRELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-683-2111	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSISSIPPI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 200 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET			
CITY: CHARLESTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63834
EMAIL: bferrell@misscomo.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2025 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Mississippi County Sheriff's Office Testimony to: The Missouri House of Representatives Re: HB 1101 Honorable Members of the Committee, On behalf of the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1101, which imposes excessive restrictions on law enforcement's use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Opposition to HB 1101 – Unlawful Use of Unmanned Aircraft While we recognize the need to safeguard law enforcement operations, this drafted legislation raises several concerns.

1. Limitations on Law Enforcement and Emergency Response HB 1101 fails to distinguish between unauthorized civilian drone use and legitimate law enforcement applications. Unmanned aircraft enhance operational effectiveness in crime scene documentation, search and rescue, and hazardous material assessments. This bill could create legal uncertainty for officers using drones for public safety.
2. Restrictions on Transparency and Media Access Broad prohibitions on drone use over crime scenes and critical incidents could limit media access and public transparency. Federal regulations already address interference with law enforcement operations, making additional state restrictions redundant.
3. Conflicts with Federal Regulations The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has clear rules on unmanned aircraft operations, including flight restrictions over sensitive locations. HB 1101 may conflict with these guidelines, leading to legal confusion and enforcement challenges.
4. Unnecessary Burden on Law Enforcement Resources Enforcing HB 1101 would strain law enforcement agencies already managing critical responsibilities. Investigating drone violations would divert resources from addressing violent crime, narcotics enforcement, and community safety. Repealing the provision allowing high-ranking law enforcement officers to authorize surveillance cameras on private property restricts a vital investigative tool. The previous policy provided necessary discretion in urgent cases, and its removal could hinder public safety operations.

The Mississippi County Sheriff's Office urges the Missouri House of Representatives to reconsider HB 1101. We advocate for a balanced approach that safeguards privacy while preserving the tools necessary for effective law enforcement. Any new policies should be developed collaboratively with law enforcement, aviation authorities, and legislators to prevent unintended consequences that could undermine public safety. I appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on these issues and am willing to work with legislators to craft effective solutions. Respectfully submitted, Britton H. Ferrell Sheriff Mississippi County



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHIEF KURT FRISZ		PHONE NUMBER: 639-949-3000	
REPRESENTING: MPCA AND LELC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC C SCHMITT		PHONE NUMBER: 417-294-3309	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT		TITLE: CHIEF OF POLICE	
ADDRESS: 110 W MADDUX ST #100			
CITY: BRANSON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65616
EMAIL: eschmitt@bransonmo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 2:58 PM

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While supportive of the intent of this bill, it would likely run into legal challenges due to existing airspace laws. Instead, we recommend an amendment to achieve the intent without violating these laws.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON WARZINIK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-447-5017	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		TITLE: IT DIVISION MANAGER AND MO-TF1 UAS PROGRAM MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 2201 I-70 DRIVE NORTHWEST			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: jwarzinik@bcfdmo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:21 PM	
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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, My name is Jason Warzinik and I serve as the IT Division Manager of the Boone County Fire Protection District and the UAS Program Manager for Missouri Task Force 1. As a local, state and national emergency and disaster response agency, the Boone County Fire District and Missouri Task Force 1 oppose HB1101 for the following reasons: 1) The wording starting on line 22 of the bill text doesn't fully exempt the volunteer members of our fire department that operate unmanned aircraft but are not considered employees. We would suggest the wording be adjusted to match HB209 305.636 line 6; Any person performing in the course of the person's duties on behalf of a fire department or fire department district.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:21 PM
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This bill, though framed as a public safety measure, poses a grave threat to constitutional freedoms, transparency, and innovation. By criminalizing drone use near crime scenes, critical incidents, or hazardous sites, HB 1101 undermines First Amendment rights, enables government overreach, and stifles Missourians' ability to hold power accountable. ****1. First Amendment Under Siege**** Drones are indispensable tools for journalists, activists, and citizens documenting matters of urgent public interest. Under HB 1101, reporting on police actions, environmental hazards, or disasters—even from public airspace—could become a ****class A misdemeanor****, punishable by fines or jail time. The bill's sweeping definition of "critical incident" (including "civil disturbances") risks criminalizing coverage of protests, rallies, or disasters, chilling press freedom and eroding Missourians' right to witness and scrutinize government activity. ****2. Public Safety ? Public Secrecy**** While the bill exempts law enforcement and corporate entities (utilities, railroads), it denies the same rights to the public. This creates a dangerous double standard: drones may surveil **us**, but **we** cannot monitor hazardous spills, police tactics, or disaster responses. Transparency is not a threat—it is the foundation of accountability. If a drone can expose misconduct or environmental negligence, why should only those in power control the narrative? ****3. Overbroad and Unnecessary**** The 400-foot vertical/500-foot horizontal buffer zones are arbitrary and excessive. Drones operated responsibly in public airspace pose no inherent danger. Existing federal regulations (FAA rules, trespass laws) already address safety and privacy concerns. This bill duplicates those safeguards while adding punitive, disproportionate penalties for nonviolent actions. ****4. Chilling Innovation and Equity**** Drones are vital for small businesses, farmers, and researchers—tools for crop monitoring, infrastructure inspections, and environmental stewardship. By reserving access for government and corporations, HB 1101 privileges powerful institutions over everyday Missourians. Worse, it risks stifling economic growth in a state that should champion technological progress. HB 1101 sacrifices liberty for the illusion of control. It empowers authorities to criminalize curiosity, journalism, and innovation under vague pretenses of "security." Missouri deserves laws that protect both public safety **and** the right to transparency. I urge you to reject this bill and defend the freedoms that make democracy possible.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:21 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-252-1800	
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO STL		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT RD.			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63304
EMAIL: PKelly@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 3:32 PM
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The use of drones is a vital law enforcement tool. The restrictions would hamper the law enforcement's ability to protect the community and in some cases increase the risk to officers in the field. For these reasons we are opposed to HB 1101



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT WEHLAGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT		TITLE: LIEUTENANT/ FIREFIGHTER	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63090
EMAIL: swehlage@washmo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:12 PM
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The Washington Fire Department is in opposition to this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS MAXIE DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tdavis@capecountysheriff.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:02 AM
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My name is Tom Davis. I serve as a Deputy and Drone Program Manager for the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Office in Jackson, Missouri, and I am also the Vice President of the Missouri Chapter of the Law Enforcement Drone Association. I am here today to express my opposition to HB 1101. While I understand the intent behind this bill, it raises serious concerns regarding its broad language, potential conflicts with federal law, and unintended consequences for public safety operations. First, the bill imposes restrictions on drone use near crime scenes, critical incidents, and law enforcement operations. However, terms like "critical incident" are vague and could apply to a wide range of events. Without clear definitions, this bill could unintentionally criminalize lawful drone operations, including those used for disaster response, search-and-rescue, and news coverage. Second, this bill conflicts with FAA regulations. The FAA has sole authority over airspace control, and HB 1101 attempts to impose state-level restrictions that could be unenforceable and legally challenged. If law enforcement needs airspace restrictions, we already have mechanisms like Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) that are federally recognized. Finally, this bill could hinder public safety efforts. Many search-and-rescue teams, disaster response groups, and infrastructure inspectors rely on drones to support emergency efforts. A blanket restriction could hinder lifesaving operations, particularly in large-scale incidents. Instead of a broad restriction, I urge lawmakers to work with law enforcement, drone professionals, and public safety groups to find a solution that balances security with operational needs. For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to reject HB 1101 in its current form. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER GROSSER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-672-9843	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FIRE DEPARTMENT		TITLE: CAPTAIN UAS COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 635 WOODLND AVE			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64106
EMAIL: tyler.grosser@kcmo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:53 PM	
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Testimony Against Missouri House Bills 209, 210, and 1101 Presented on Behalf of the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas City Fire Department March 3, 2025 Good afternoon, honorable members of the Missouri House of Representatives. My name is Tyler Grosser, representing the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas City Fire Department (KCFD). We stand before you today to voice our firm opposition to House Bills 209, 210, and 1101, which we believe threaten the safety, efficiency, and autonomy of our community and its essential emergency services. The KCFD serves over 500,000 residents across 318 square miles, operating 35 fire stations and responding to thousands of emergencies annually, including fires, medical calls, and rescues. Our ability to protect lives and property hinges on leveraging modern tools, maintaining local control, and securing adequate resources. HB 209, HB 210, and HB 1101, as proposed, undermine these priorities in distinct but equally concerning ways. Opposition to HB 209 - "Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act" HB 209 seeks to restrict the use of unmanned aircraft, ostensibly to safeguard privacy. While we respect these intentions, the bill's broad limitations would severely hamper the KCFD's ability to deploy drones for critical operations. Our department has increasingly relied on unmanned aerial systems to assess fire scenes, locate victims in hazardous areas, and monitor large-scale incidents like wildfires or industrial accidents. Last year alone, drone footage expedited response times in over 50 high-risk calls, saving lives and reducing property damage. By curtailing this technology, HB 209 risks slowing our response capabilities, endangering both our firefighters and the public we serve. We urge a balanced approach that preserves our ability to use drones responsibly under local oversight, rather than a blanket restriction. Opposition to HB 210 - "Unmanned Aerial Systems Security Act of 2025" Similarly, HB 210 imposes security regulations on unmanned aerial systems that could stifle their practical application in emergency services. The KCFD uses drones not for surveillance but for real-time situational awareness—identifying hot spots in structure fires, assessing flood damage, or coordinating multi-agency responses. The bill's stringent protocols, while aimed at preventing misuse, may burden our department with compliance costs or operational delays. With a fleet of 33 pumper companies and 12 truck companies already stretched thin, we cannot afford additional administrative hurdles that divert resources from the front lines. Kansas City needs legislation that supports, rather than restricts, our use of innovative tools to protect our citizens. Opposition to HB 1101 Though less defined, HB 1101 appears to reflect a pattern of state-level mandates that encroach on municipal authority. Whether it involves funding reallocations, regulatory overreach, or new operational requirements, such measures often fail to account for Kansas City's unique challenges as a major urban center. Our fire department's regional partnerships—serving jurisdictions like Riverside and Lake Waukomis—depend on the flexibility to tailor services to local needs. If HB 1101 imposes rigid policies or siphons resources, it could disrupt these agreements and

weaken our emergency response network. We ask for clarity on this bill's intent and caution against any provisions that erode the local control essential to our mission. Collective Concerns Together, these bills signal an alarming trend of state interference in local public safety operations. The KCFD's 1,500+ annual fire responses and extensive community education efforts—reaching 300,000 residents—demonstrate our commitment to excellence. HB 209 and HB 210's restrictions on drone technology could reverse years of progress in modernizing our services, while HB 1101's potential overreach threatens our fiscal and operational stability. Kansas City's residents deserve a fire department unencumbered by unnecessary state constraints. We respectfully implore you to reject House Bills 209, 210, and 1101. The City of Kansas City and the KCFD are eager to collaborate with this body to address privacy, security, and governance concerns without compromising our ability to serve. Thank you for your attention, and I welcome any questions. Sincerely, Tyler Grosser Captain, drone Coordinator, City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas City MO Fire Department



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN YEAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jyeast@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:37 PM

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Would like to have additional language added for take off / landing restrictions for non-public safety pilots