



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 209		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		
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 209. It should be illegal for any surveillance of any person or property without a search warrant.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: NEAL ENGLISH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-494-8924	
REPRESENTING: STATE SHIELD		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 730 WEST MAIN			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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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: SHERIFF	
ADDRESS: 200 WEST COMMERCIAL STREET			
CITY: CHARLESTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63834
EMAIL: bferrell@misscomo.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2025 11:00 AM	

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Mississippi County Sheriff's Office Testimony to: The Missouri House of Representatives Re: HB 209 Honorable Members of the Committee, On behalf of the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 209, which imposes excessive restrictions on using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by law enforcement to use drones for legitimate investigations, potentially compromising public safety. Opposition to HB 209 – Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act While I recognize the need to safeguard law enforcement operations, this drafted legislation raises several concerns.

1. Warrant Requirements Impede Investigations Mandating warrants for nearly all drone use, except in emergencies, creates delays that could hinder law enforcement operations. Drones are crucial in fast-moving situations such as suspect apprehension and search-and-rescue missions.
2. Public Safety Risks from Operational Restrictions Restricting drone surveillance without property owner consent could enable criminal activity to go undetected. Law enforcement relies on drones to monitor drug operations, human trafficking, and other illegal activities.
3. Conflicts with Federal Standards This bill introduces state-level restrictions that may conflict with existing federal drone regulations, causing legal confusion and operational inefficiencies for law enforcement agencies.
4. Limiting Law Enforcement Surveillance Capabilities 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 209. 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: CHRIS EDGAR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-346-2243	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CAMDEN COUNTY 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		
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: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 2:58 PM

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This bill would render the Branson PD drone program useless for numerous public safety applications that we currently handle. These include two large parades in our downtown area, as it is impractical to contact all private property owners for permission to fly downtown. Additionally, when we have neighborhoods targeted by car thieves, burglars, etc., we are able to fly our drones and look for suspicious persons lurking along roadways, tying doors, etc. Again, it would be impossible to gain permission from all private property owners in these subdivisions to be able to prevent crime from happening. There is already existing case law in the State and Federal Circuits that prohibit law enforcement from the searches of properties that this bill targets. This existing case law works and it is unnecessary to have this bill to achieve this purpose. Instead, it would prohibit law enforcement from protecting our communities to the best of our abilities.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BARTON		PHONE NUMBER: 636-677-3371	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HIGH RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		TITLE: FIRE CHIEF	
ADDRESS: 2842 HIGH RIDGE BLVD			
CITY: HIGH RIDGE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63049
EMAIL: jbarton@highridgefire.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2025 12:26 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN CLINE		PHONE NUMBER: 660-827-0052	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PETTIS CO. SHERIFF's OFFICE		TITLE: SERGEANT	
ADDRESS: 319 S. LAMINE			
CITY: SEDALIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65301
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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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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In-person testimony



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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 210



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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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Good afternoon, My name is Tom Davis, I serve as a Deputy and the Drone Program Manager for the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Office in Jackson, MO. I am here today to express my strong opposition to HB209, as it imposes unnecessary restrictions on law enforcement's ability to use drones for public safety, investigations, and Officer Safety. HB 209 is a solution looking for a problem that does not exist. Missouri law enforcement officers are not in the business of spying on the people we are sworn to serve and protect. We use drones responsibly and legally to improve emergency response, protect officers, and enhance public safety. The implication that law enforcement is misusing drones for surveillance is offensive to the thousands of law enforcement professionals across Missouri who serve with integrity. There is no evidence of widespread drone misuse by law enforcement. This bill restricts law enforcement from using drones for controlled buys, a common tool in combatting drug trafficking. These operations are time-sensitive and require real-time surveillance to ensure officer and informant safety. HB 209 requires a warrant to use a drone for video recording, which is not always feasible in rapidly evolving operations. Delays caused by this restriction allow criminals to destroy evidence, escape, or ambush officers. Even using a drone for officer safety—without recording—could be illegal under this bill. HB 209 prohibits drones from conducting "surveillance or observation" without consent or a warrant. Even if no footage is recorded, simply watching officers from above could be considered unlawful. This removes a critical tool for ensuring officer safety in high-risk operations. This bill does nothing to stop criminals from using drones but hinders law enforcement from doing our jobs. Missouri law enforcement does not have a drone misuse problem—this bill is based on a false premise and makes it harder for officers to protect and serve effectively. I urge this committee to reject HB 209 and trust Missouri's law enforcement professionals to continue using drones responsibly to enhance public safety—not infringe upon it. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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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		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: WARD COOK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-3276
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PROSECUTOR's ASSOC.		TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. 899		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM
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