



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 210		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: 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 210. It should be illegal for any surveillance of any person or property from any unmanned drone or aircraft without a search warrant



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875	
REPRESENTING: STATE ARMOR ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 122 E HIGH STREET, SUITE 200			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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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			
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 eliminate 90 to 95% of Public Safety Drone programs in the state. Currently, American companies do not produce drones that have the quality and abilities of the drones currently used by the majority of agencies. Additionally, these inferior products carry exorbitant costs that are 10 to 14 times the costs of the drones we use. In the two years that the Branson PD and Taney County and Stone County Sheriffs Offices have had our drone programs, we have saved many lives, found several lost hikers in danger and captured numerous violent suspects. This included one that had shot a Forsyth PD Officer and was laying in wait in the dark for other officers to ambush. The BPD drone also is utilized frequently to assist our Fire Department in locating active hot spots on fires, etc. Our agency follows best practices in our drone operations and maintenance, which limits the threat of hacking or other hi-jacking by foreign entities. This includes operating our drones off of the internet and with software designed to prohibit unauthorized access. We also manually download all video and data off of an SD card and not via the internet. Finally, all firmware updates are completed on a different WiFi than our city's, so that our sensitive data cannot be accessed. Simply put, the benefits and saved lives our agencies regularly provide via these programs far outweigh any risk of sensitive information being accessed by a foreign country that is not already readily accessible via Google open sources.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON WARZINIK, IT DIVISION MANAGER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-875-8017	
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: JASON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL: jwarzinik@bcfdmo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 7:47 AM	
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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 HB 210 for the following reasons:1. HB 210 would not allow my agency to use the most capable drone for the mission. We have flown a variety of drones on local, state and national search and rescue missions. The drones this legislation would ban are currently the most capable and most affordable drones for our types of missions. Additionally, the eleven drones in our current fleet that would be banned come in a variety of different models with unique capabilities that match the various mission types we fly and replacement of these banned drones, that originally cost \$68,500, would cost our agency between \$165,000 and \$715,000 with the current offerings of not mission capable and technologically inferior Green or Blue listed UAS.2. HB 210 only bans the use of drones that public agencies like mine use, while allowing any ordinary citizen, who can fly right next to me by the way, use this type of banned drone.3. HB 210 bans our use of drones based on where they are manufactured rather than verifiable security risks. If there are truly security risks with these drones, are there not security risks with any device (or parts of devices) made in the "countries of concern", such as, cell phones, tablets and computers and their peripherals? For these reasons, I urge you to oppose this potentially damaging piece of legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration,



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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: LES CREWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 13725 OLIVE BLVD			
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63017
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT		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 3:26 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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA EICHELBERGER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-1458	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2200 MAGUIRE BLVD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: reichelberger@mpua.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 2:31 PM
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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			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF KANSAS CITY		TITLE: THE GIDDENS GROUP	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: cooper@thegiddensgroup.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 5:39 PM
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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, MO. I am also the Vice President of the Missouri Chapter of the Law Enforcement Drone Association. I am here today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 210 because it bans the most widely used and effective drones for law enforcement, provides no guarantee of replacement funding, and forces agencies to use more expensive, less capable alternatives. HB 210 bans drones from "countries of concern", including those that are the most widely used by law enforcement nationwide. These drones are industry leaders because they offer the best combination of affordability, reliability, and performance. The bill claims these drones "could" pose a security risk, but there is no irrefutable proof that they are transmitting sensitive data to foreign governments. Even federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense have exemptions to use these drones, yet Missouri law enforcement is being completely cut off from them. HB 210 does not allow Missouri law enforcement agencies to request a waiver or exemption, unlike the federal government, meaning we will be forced to dispose of our drones with no ability to retain them for operational necessity. If these drones truly posed an immediate security threat, there would be zero exemptions—but that is not the case. This bill requires agencies to dispose of non-compliant drones by 2026, but it provides no guaranteed funding for replacements. The bill states that agencies may request reimbursement, but that funding is "subject to appropriation"—which means there is no guarantee we will get a single dollar. Many departments, including mine, do not have the budget to replace an entire drone fleet without financial assistance. If funding is not appropriated, agencies will be left without drones entirely, impacting critical operations. A comparable replacement costs significantly more yet does not provide the same capabilities. If forced to switch, law enforcement will be paying more for less, hurting our ability to serve the public effectively. This bill creates unnecessary restrictions that hinder public safety efforts without providing a clear path for law enforcement to maintain operational effectiveness. I urge the committee to reject HB 210 and work toward real solutions that balance security, affordability, and operational needs for Missouri law enforcement. 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: 816-210-3225	
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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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WM MATT PAGANO		PHONE NUMBER: 636-262-4400	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MARYLAND HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		TITLE: FIRE CHIEF	
ADDRESS: 2600 SCHUETZ RD			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: mpagano@mhfire.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 4:38 PM

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Representing Maryland Heights Fire Protection District and St Louis County Special Operations, in opposition to the bill.