



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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*Senate Democratic Leader
North Carolina
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William T. Pound
Executive Director

March 15, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C., 20510

RE: Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

Dear Chairman Thune and Senator Nelson:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, appreciates the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation continuing work on the issue of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), more commonly referred to as drones. At the committee's hearing on this issue on March 15, the issues of a state and local patchwork of drone laws, as well as FAA's Drone Advisory Committee (DAC), were mentioned numerous times by both members of the committee and six witnesses.

In his written remarks Dr. Villasenor cited NCSL's report, *Taking Off – State Unmanned Aircraft Systems Policies*, multiple times to help support his testimony. Additionally, Dr. Lawrence cited the DAC and its work with state and local governments when asked by multiple committee members about FAA's efforts on privacy issues. Unfortunately, state legislatures are not officially involved with either the larger DAC or its smaller task force exploring the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government when it comes to drones.

NCSL requests your assistance in ensuring the addition of a representative of state legislatures to both the DAC and its task force on roles and responsibilities. This will ensure that any future discussions are correctly informed on what state legislatures have done and are doing and that any consensus recommendations fully represent all levels of governments involved.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your committee's work on this issue and look forward to continuing

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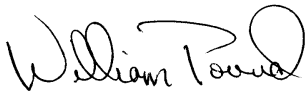
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our positive relationship. If you or your staff have any further questions or concerns, please contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Amanda Essex (amanda.essesx@ncsl.org) with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures