



March 9, 2021

The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senate
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Robin Vos
Assembly Speaker
Wisconsin
President, NCSL

Martha R. Wigton
Director
House Budget & Research
Office
Georgia
Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey
Executive Director

RE: Drone Integration and Zoning Act of 2021

Dear Senator Lee:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, commonwealths, and territories, we applaud your reintroduction of the Drone Integration and Zoning Act, which would affirm state regulatory authority regarding low-altitude operation of unmanned aerial systems, or drones.

States have been at the forefront of responsible drone regulation related to their traditional police powers. As written, the Drone Integration and Zoning Act would both guarantee state and local authority to protect public safety and security, personal privacy, property rights, and manage land use regarding the operation of drones as well as ensure the Federal Aviation Administration's authority to maintain the safety of navigable airspace. A cooperative federalism system which not only recognizes state authority and expertise but also the expertise of federal authorities is key to the development and expansion of these new technologies.

We look forward to working with you, your fellow members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and all United States Senators, as this conversation moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact NCSL staff Kristen Hildreth (202-624-3597 or kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org) with any follow up questions

Sincerely,

Representative Stephen Handy
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Utah House of Representatives

Representative David Tarnas
NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure
Committee Co-Chair
Hawaii House of Representatives