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August 24, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
2164 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman LoBiondo, and Ranking Member Larsen:

As you continue work on the Federal Aviation Authorization (FAA) reauthorization legislation, I request that you review Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. As you are surely aware, there has been a recent surge in incidents involving drones disrupting air traffic. On Sunday, August 16, 2015, 12 episodes were recorded nationwide of small drones interfering with airspace or operating too close to airports. Pilots have reported over 700 close encounters in 2015; three times as many as were reported in 2014.

The Washington Post reports that, "small drones have become hugely popular with consumers who fly them for recreation. Many models come equipped with sophisticated video cameras yet retail for less than \$500 and can be flown with little or no training... The Consumer Electronics Association estimates that hobbyists will buy 700,000 of the aircraft in the United States this year."

As recreational drone use continues to increase, it is vital that Congress review Section 336 and examine what authority FAA has to enforce it. The rise of these incidents has made it clear that current law does not properly ensure the safety of our airspace. I urge you to consider the

inclusion of civil penalties for recreational users who endanger the safety of the national airspace system, consider instating a mandatory registration for recreational drones, or consider requiring geofencing technology be installed in recreation drones to impose geographical limits on their movement.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you all to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Albio Sires
Member of Congress