

ALBIO SIRES

8TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

WESTERN HEMISPHERE, RANKING MEMBER  
EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3013**

2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7919

5500 PALISADE AVENUE, SUITE A  
WEST NEW YORK, NJ 07093  
(201) 558-0800

121 NEWARK AVENUE, SUITE 200  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302  
(201) 309-0301

800 ANNA STREET  
ELIZABETH, NJ 07201  
(908) 820-0692

[HTTP://WWW.SIRES.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.SIRES.HOUSE.GOV)

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