

June 23, 2016

Honorable John Thune
205 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Bill Shuster
2268 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned associations write to request that Section 2126 “Special Authority for Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems” of the Senate FAA reauthorization be included in the legislation Congress will pass before July 15th to maintain FAA’s operational authority.

Section 2126 was included in the Senate FAA reauthorization on a bi-partisan basis and requires the FAA to establish a process by which owners and operators of crucial infrastructure may incorporate the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) into their regulatory compliance, safety, emergency response, and operational activities.

Unmanned aerial vehicles are a new technology that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our public safety and system reliability efforts. Moreover in exigent circumstances such as natural disasters or security related events, UAV’s will allow for faster response, while providing a persistent capacity that will aid personnel in assessing dangerous situations.

As owners and operators of the critical infrastructure that Section 2126 includes, we request you include in your current legislative efforts this important safety and security provision. The safety and reliability of our facilities are critical to our nation’s energy economy, and the nation’s economy in general. Including Section 2126 will improve both safety and reliability through the use of these new UAV technologies for our facilities.

Thank You,

Small UAV Coalition
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
American Wind Energy Association
American Public Power Association

Edison Electric Institute
Association of Oil Pipelines
American Petroleum Institute
American Gas Association
American Public Gas Association
CTIA – The Wireless Association