



**June 21, 2017**

The Honorable Jason Lewis  
United States House of Representatives  
418 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
United States House of Representatives  
1019 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Rokita  
United States House of Representatives  
2439 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi  
United States House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Lewis, Brownley, Rokita, and Garamendi:

On behalf of the nation’s governors, legislators and chief state aviation officials, we commend you for introducing the Drone Innovation Act, which would affirm state regulatory authority regarding the operation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drones.

States have been at the forefront of responsible drone regulation related to their traditional police powers. As Congress continues its work on a 2017 FAA reauthorization, we support bipartisan efforts to preserve state, local, and tribal rights regarding drone operations. As written, the Drone Innovation Act of 2017 would both protect the FAA’s authority to ensure safety of the airspace, while also maintaining state and local authority to protect public safety and security, personal privacy, property rights, and manage land use regarding the operation of drones.

We look forward to working with you, as well as Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio, to ensure a successful 2017 FAA Reauthorization that preserves state authority and regulation over drones.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Pattison  
Executive Director and CEO  
National Governors Association

William T. Pound  
Executive Director  
National Conference of State  
Legislatures

Mark Kimberling  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of State  
Aviation Officials

cc: Chairman Shuster, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Ranking Member DeFazio, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee