

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
115 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
204 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lloyd Smucker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
516 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Burr and Cortez Masto and Representatives DeSaulnier and Smucker:

The Small UAV Coalition applauds your commitment to ensuring the continued use of technology and innovation to bring a wide range of benefits to communities through the Moving and Fostering Innovation to Revolutionize Smarter Transportation Act (Moving FIRST Act).

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) technology has the potential to deliver immense consumer and economic benefits to communities of all sizes. Specifically, jurisdictions could leverage UAS technology to provide many of the benefits that will be considered for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grants created by the Moving FIRST Act, including reducing congestion and delays for commerce and the traveling public, contributing to medium- and long-term economic competitiveness, and contributing to environmental and energy efficiency.

The Moving FIRST Act coincides with the launch of a new UAS Integration Pilot Program through which state, local, and tribal governments will partner with private sector entities to explore innovative UAS operations beyond those currently authorized by Federal Aviation Administration regulations, including operations beyond the visual line of sight, over people, and carrying property. Like the Moving FIRST Act, the pilot program offers communities an opportunity to leverage UAS to demonstrate the immense benefits of this rapidly developing technology.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the continued development of innovative technology solutions, including those pioneered by the unmanned aerial systems industry. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in this rapidly developing sector.

Sincerely,

