



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515
www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

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March 26, 2015

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
Chair

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Ayotte:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to submit this statement for the official record in response to the hearing of the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, titled: "Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): Key Considerations Regarding Safety, Innovation, Economic Impact, and Privacy."

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

As members of the Subcommittee examine the broad uses of UAS, we urge members to consider the fact that law enforcement has increased its use of UAS to fight crime. It is critical that officers are able to effectively use these new tools to assist efforts to keep our communities safe.

We strongly feel that law enforcement should be exempt from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations regarding UAS, or at the very least, the FAA should recognize law enforcement exigent circumstances as an exception to normal FAA regulations and requirements.

As was recognized during the hearing you chaired on March 24, 2015, there are many beneficial uses for UAS. As we have seen in recent years, UAS are beneficial tools to law enforcement officers across the nation. As these systems are integrated into future strategies to fight crime, law enforcement should not be subject to unnecessary regulations that will impede their ability to keep our communities safe. Exempting law enforcement from FAA regulations regarding UAS will enable our officers to effectively carry out their duties.

We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to talking with you further on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director