

Chris Polychron, CIPS, CRS, GRI
2015 President

Dale A. Stinton
Chief Executive Officer

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
DIVISION**

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President
Scott Reiter, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Ph. 202-383-1194 Fax 202-383-7580
www.REALTOR.org

December 9, 2014

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Aviation
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Aviation
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman LoBiondo and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I thank the subcommittee for holding the hearing titled “U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Integration, Oversight and Competitiveness,” to address the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) rulemaking on the topic of commercial use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). In the FAA Modernization Act of 2012, the agency was tasked by Congress with promulgating regulations for integrating small UAS into the National Air Space (NAS). NAR is pleased to see that the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation is following up on that charge.

REALTORS® are particularly excited about the potential of using UAS technology to photograph and take video footage of property listings for residential, commercial, and land sales or leases. At the same time, NAR understands the need to balance the opportunities for commercial use of UAS with protecting the privacy and safety of citizens and other users of the NAS.

Current FAA regulations ban any commercial use of UAS. There is a waiver process in place, but it is extremely time-consuming and costly. Only seven waivers have been granted, all to filmmakers who are using sophisticated machines in a closed-set environment. The delay in creating more reasonable regulation is costly to the economy, as both UAS manufacturers and potential end-users are left unsure of what they will be allowed to do in the future. This technology-based industry can only succeed in the U.S. with effective regulation that protects citizen safety and privacy while allowing operators to use these machines for the multitude of purposes for which they were designed.

To this end, NAR has encouraged the FAA to act quickly to issue regulations defining the parameters under which commercial use of UAS is permissible, and any safety precautions or other requirements that must be met by users. As potential end-users of this technology, REALTORS® want clear regulation that permits the commercial application of UAS in a way that is affordable to users and safe for their communities, both on the ground and in the NAS.

Again, thank you for holding this hearing. NAR looks forward to working with Congress and the FAA to create a safe and reasonable regulatory environment for the commercial use of UAS.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

