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January 20, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
House Science, Space, and Technology  
Committee  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space, and Technology  
Committee  
2468 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

On behalf of the 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for holding tomorrow's hearing, "Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research and Development," to address the growing innovation in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry. NAR's membership includes REALTORS® who hope to utilize UAS technology, which is uniquely suited for photography and video of expansive or unique properties for marketing purposes. As the FAA works toward promulgating rules allowing the commercial use of UAS, working to make this technology as safe and reliable as possible is very important to our members.

The FAA Modernization Act of 2012 tasked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with promulgating regulations for integrating small UAS into the National Air Space (NAS). Current FAA regulations ban any commercial use of UAS, but as the industry rapidly grows and innovates, we are hopeful that new developments to protect safety and privacy will propel the FAA along in their rulemaking. 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. 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®

cc: Members of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

