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The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Small Business Committee
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Small Business Committee
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot and Ranking Member Velázquez:

On behalf of the over 1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for holding this hearing, "Taking Flight: Small Business Utilization of Unmanned Aircraft." NAR has always had a close relationship with the small business community since REALTORS® are small business owners, or have them as their clients. Additionally, REALTORS® have demonstrated a strong interest in using unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for marketing properties, which for many will mean contracting with a small business that specializes in UAS photography and videography. NAR supports the FAA's proposed regulations for the commercial use of UAS, as they will allow for safe use of the technology by the real estate industry.

REALTORS® are excited about the potential to use UAS technology to take photographs and video footage of property listings for residential, commercial, and land sales or leases. In fact, a REALTOR® from Arizona was one of the first people to successfully apply for and receive a "Section 333" waiver, currently the only avenue available to fly a UAS for commercial purposes. NAR was thus pleased when the FAA released its proposed rulemaking on integrating small UAS for commercial use into the National Air Space (NAS) in February 2015. This is the first step toward a regulatory environment where commercial drone use is legal and has prescribed federal guidelines.

Commercial use of UAS has the potential to boost the U.S. economy, bringing research and manufacturing jobs to our country along with a new crop of small businesses specializing in their uses. NAR is excited about these possibilities, but also understands the need to balance them with protecting the privacy and safety of citizens and other users of the NAS. As 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. The FAA's most recent proposed rules are a start, and are an improvement over the current regulatory scheme, but they are not expected to be finalized until 2017.

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: U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee

