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March 13, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Senate Commerce, Science, &  
Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science, &  
Transportation Committee  
425 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the over 1.2 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) and its affiliates, the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM), and the REALTORS® Land Institute (RLI), thank you for holding this hearing, “Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Innovation, Integration, Successes, and Challenges.” REALTORS® were among the first to recognize the potential of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for marketing properties, and look forward to other applications - including land surveying, inspections, and even repairs – for UAS in the real estate and property management industries.

NAR was pleased when the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its Small UAS Rule last summer, which was an important first step towards integrating UAS into the National Air Space (NAS). That rule created a clear pathway for commercial UAS use while protecting safety in the NAS and on the ground. It is important that the FAA continue making progress with its UAS rulemaking, including regulations for operating UAS over crowds, beyond-visual-line-of-sight flights, and night flights. Real estate professionals are excited about the possible uses for UAS in the real estate industry, but the current regulatory framework stops short of providing the type of guidance and flexibility needed for the technology to reach its full potential.

NAR has been active in the rulemaking process, participating in the FAA Micro UAS Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC), which released recommendations on rules for micro-UAS flights over people, as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) working group on privacy best practices. The Association looks forward to seeing the results of this work translated into federal guidelines for safe and responsible UAS use in a variety of situations.

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

Sincerely,

William E. Brown  
2017 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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cc: Members of the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee