



May 13, 2016

The Honorable Mary Fallin
Office of the Governor
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Fallin:

The undersigned companies represent hundreds of the country's leading technology companies in high-tech manufacturing, computer networking and information technology, clean energy, life sciences, internet media, ecommerce, education, and sharing economy sectors. Our member companies are committed to advancing public policies and private sector initiatives that make the U.S. the most innovative country in the world.

To that end, we respectfully urge you to veto HB 2599, a bill with the intent to regulate the use of unmanned aircraft above critical infrastructure facilities. On page 5, line 11 Section 9, the bill currently reads: "An operator of an unmanned aircraft that is being used for a commercial purpose, if the operator is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct operations over that airspace." Our organizations appreciate the inclusion of this section, but do not feel it adequately addresses existing federal authorities to operate an unmanned aircraft. We are specifically concerned the words "over that airspace" within this section of the bill conflicts with federal aviation rules, which we fear could reduce air safety and deter commercial unmanned aerial systems (UAS) operators from flying in Oklahoma airspace.

As you know, the UAS industry is transforming the way many of our companies do business. These game-changing innovations allow faster delivery of products such as life-saving diagnostic equipment and medicine. UASs are also used to improve crop production, and to make road, bridge and building construction and maintenance safer. They are spurring creation of innovative businesses and generating a host of new jobs. In Oklahoma, for example, the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International estimates an economic impact of \$106 million over the next two years and over \$600 million by 2025. To that end, the safe integration of UASs into our transportation system, particularly in Oklahoma, is essential.

Commercial UAS operators registered and approved by the FAA to legally operate, must first abide by FAA restrictions on flight altitude, flight paths, operational bans and navigable airspace guidelines. Since the proposed flight ban in HB 2599 would conflict with FAA rules, UAS operators will find themselves having to choose to either willfully ignore their ability to fly per FAA rules or ignore state law.

Congress gave the FAA sole authority to regulate commercial UAS operators on purpose. They recognized that one national entity must govern airspace to avoid substantial air safety problems that could ensue if state or local governments adopted a patchwork of differing flight restrictions. The FAA rules preempt state laws and they warn that enactment of conflicting state laws could severely limit flexibility and control of airspace and flight patterns as well as hinder safe and efficient air traffic.

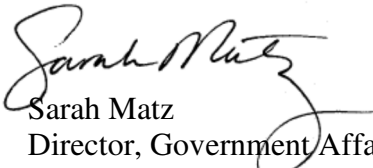
For these reasons, we request you veto for HB 2599 as it promotes inefficient and unsafe operations of UAS flights, conflicts with FAA regulations that control navigable airspace, and could force UAS operators into unsafe flight patterns. If allowed to become law, it will likely cause a reduction or elimination of UAS flights in Oklahoma.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please contact us if you have any questions.

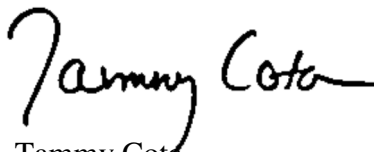
Sincerely,



John Doherty
Vice President and General Counsel
TechNet



Sarah Matz
Director, Government Affairs
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)



Tammy Cota
Executive Director
Internet Coalition



Carl Szabo
Policy Counsel
NetChoice