

NetChoice *Promoting Convenience, Choice, and Commerce on The Net*

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February 28, 2019

Sen. Steve Hobbs, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation
Olympia, WA

RE: **Opposition to SB 5137 – New fees on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles registration.**

Dear Chair Hobbs and members of the Committee,

We respectfully ask you not to advance SB 5137.

We agree with the intent to install reasonable regulations regarding the use of drones. However, we ask that you not advance SB 5137 as it creates new and discriminatory fees on drones. Drones are amazing devices and wonderful gifts. But SB 5137 changes the registration structure on them to impose high fees that will discourage registration.

Drones hold tremendous promise for businesses, professionals, and hobbyists. In areas like real estate, security, agriculture, architecture, engineering, and delivery, drones can provide significant commercial benefits to consumers and businesses in both rural and urban areas.

SB 5137 treats drones differently from other remote-controlled devices. It would be absurd to impose the same registration fee on a remote-controlled car that is placed on a helicopter or fixed wing airplane. But that is what SB 5137 does for small drones.

Moreover, today, commercial drone makers work diligently to educate operators about safe flight and the need for registration. But adding \$15 fees on every registration of small drones and \$30 fees on larger ones will make harder this registration campaign.

Instead of passing SB 5137 we suggest working with drone manufactures and drone operators. While we ask that you not adopt SB 5137, we welcome the opportunity to work with you on reasonable approaches that allow all to prosper.

Sincerely,

Carl Szabo
Vice President and General Counsel, NetChoice
NetChoice is a trade association of e-Commerce and online businesses. www.netchoice.org