



March 31, 2016

Representative Tim Sanders, Chair
Minnesota House Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee
553 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Jim Newberger
371 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Concerns Regarding HF 3517, Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Dear Chairman Sanders and Representative Newberger:

The undersigned companies represent hundreds of the country's leading technology companies in high-tech manufacturing, computer networking and information technology, telecommunications, 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.

We are writing to express concerns about HF 3517, which would create requirements and a complex regulatory environment for operators of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) that could jeopardize the emerging \$853 million UAS market in Minnesota. We ask that you eliminate problematic provisions in this legislation and consult with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) before advancing this legislation.

HF 3517 would require registration of UAS in Minnesota, although the FAA has already asserted its authority as the sole entity that will register UAS in the United States, unless it provides permission to a state or local government. Registration requirements and associated fees are unnecessary at the state level, and will act as a barrier, especially to small businesses interested in investing in UAS.

This bill also includes onerous permitting requirements and a knowledge test. Such provisions are included in existing FAA review processes, and commercial entities must satisfy complex technical and safety standards before they are able to operate. Such requirements at the state level would be duplicative and potentially conflict with federal requirements.

The UAS industry has the potential to transform the way many of our companies do business in Minnesota, providing game-changing innovations including faster delivery of products, improving crop production, and making road, bridge and building construction and maintenance safer.

For these reasons, we ask you to please remove the registration and licensing requirements within HF 3517 to account for existing FAA rules and avoid the creation of a burdensome regulatory environment for this growing sector in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Bethanne Cooley
Director, State Legislative Affairs, CTIA



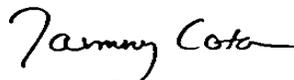
Carl Szabo
Policy Counsel, NetChoice



Alexi Madon
Director, State Government Affairs, CompTIA



Megan Schrader
Executive Director, West & Northwest Region, TechNet



Tammy Cota
Executive Director, Internet Coalition