

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

Carl Szabo, Senior Policy Counsel  
1401 K St NW, Suite 502  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-420-7485

[www.netchoice.org](http://www.netchoice.org)



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Sen. Curt Meier, Chair  
Rep. John Eklund, Chair  
Joint Committee on Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs  
Wyoming Legislature Senate  
213 State Capitol  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: **Opposition to SF 170 – An Act Regarding Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

Dear Chairman Meier and Eklund and members of the Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee,  
We ask you not to advance SF 170.

We agree with the intent to install reasonable regulations regarding the use of drones. However, SF 170's grant of broad powers to the aeronautics commission comes with unintended consequences to legitimate personal and commercial uses of drones.

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.

However, passing SF 170 could prevent Wyoming residents from exploring many of these opportunities.

For example, SF 170 could ultimately limit the ability of:

- Realtors to use a drone to take pictures of a townhouse.
- Farmers from using a drone to take monitor their crops.
- News media and film makers to record.

SF 170 also lacks clear exceptions for emergency safety situations where a drone must enter private property.

Fortunately, Wyoming has existing laws that already protect the privacy and safety of residents. For example, laws addressing interference with law enforcement,<sup>1</sup> stalking,<sup>2</sup> trespass<sup>3</sup> and unlawfully collecting resource data<sup>4</sup> are already fully applicable to the use of drones in Wyoming.

Regarding the flight restrictions, the US Department of Transportation provides conflicting height restrictions.

Instead of passing SF 170 we suggest amending it to create clear rules for drone operators. We suggest replacing the existing bill text with the "Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act" (UASA) based on existing Michigan Law ([SB 992](#) 2016).

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<sup>1</sup> WY Stat § 6-5-204

<sup>2</sup> *Id* § 6-2-506

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* § 6-3-303

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* § 40-27-101. (2015)

The UASA, available at [NetChoice.org/DroneModel](https://www.netchoice.org/DroneModel), enables the safe and lawful operation of drones by promoting accountability of operators, protecting privacy and property rights, and prescribing penalties for interference with first responders.

The UASA:

- Creates statewide standard allowing clarity for individuals and government.
- Recognizes licensing by FAA.
- Prohibits using a UAS to knowingly and intentionally:
  - Interfere with the official duties of first responders.
  - Harass, stalk, or violate restraining orders.
  - Recording an individual in a manner that invades the individual's reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Creates a process to register locations as critical infrastructure.

While we ask that you not adopt SF 170, we welcome the opportunity to work with you on reasonable regulations that allow all to prosper.

Sincerely,



Carl Szabo

Senior Policy Counsel, NetChoice

*NetChoice is a trade association of e-Commerce and online businesses. [www.netchoice.org](https://www.netchoice.org)*