

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

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January 22, 2018

Sen. Mark Obenshain, Chair
Senate Committee for Courts of Justice
Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building, Room E502
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: **Support for SB 526 – A Bill to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-926.3 and 19.2-60.1 of the Code of Virginia.**

Dear Chairman Obenshain and members of the Committee for Courts of Justice,

We ask that you advance the SB 526 regarding the safe operation of Unmanned Aircrafts (hereinafter "UAS").

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

SB 526 strikes the right balance by installing reasonable regulations regarding the use of UAS.

For example, SB 526 would help enable:

- Farmers to use UAS to monitor their crops
- Realtors to use UAS to take better pictures of homes for sale
- News media and film makers to use UAS to make films and report events.

At the same time SB 526 helps clarify and sets forth reasonable rules for operation of UAS. For example, SB 526 protects against using a UAS to intentionally and knowingly trespass to harass, coerce, or intimidate. Moreover, SB 526 protects against using a UAS to violate a restraining order.

SB 526 creates the right path forward for Virginia's regulation of UAS.

We ask that you advance SB 526, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Szabo".

Carl Szabo
Vice President and General Counsel, NetChoice

NetChoice is a trade association of e-Commerce and online businesses. www.netchoice.org