



March 28, 2017

Honorable Bobby Cleveland, Chair
House Public Safety Committee
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 434
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Representative Cleveland:

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.

We ask that you please not advance SB 630, a bill that proposes to regulate robotic vehicle technology. The unmanned aerial system (UAS) industry will transform the way many of our companies do business. It will provide game-changing innovations including 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. To that end, the safe integration of UASs into our transportation system is important as it will ultimately decrease the number of noisy vehicles on the road, reduce fuel consumption, and lower carbon emissions.

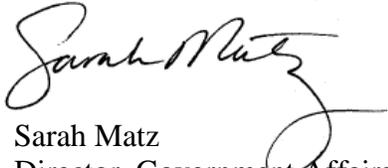
Commercial UAS operators that are registered and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to legally operate, must first abide by FAA restrictions on flight altitude, flight paths, operational bans and navigable airspace guidelines. Congress gave the FAA sole authority to regulate commercial UAS operators for a reason, they recognized that one national entity must govern airspace to avoid substantial air safety problems that could ensue if state or local governments were allowed to adopt a "patchwork quilt" 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 their ability to ensure safe and efficient air traffic.

We ask that you please not advance SB 630 as this bill would conflict with current FAA regulations in effect that control navigable airspace which allows commercial UAS operators to conduct safe flight patterns. If this bill is allowed to become law, UAS operators will find themselves having to choose to either willfully ignore their ability to fly per FAA rules or ignore state law.

Sincerely,



Caroline Joiner
Executive Director
TechNet



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



Tammy Cota
Executive Director
Internet Coalition



Carl Szabo
Policy Counsel
NetChoice

cc: House Public Safety Committee members