

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 3, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to endorse the Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT) selection for the UAS Integration Pilot Program.

The pilot program is an important resource for UAS rule-making and selection for this program would enable the Kansas UAS Joint Task Force to build upon the momentum it has generated over the past year to increase public safety through innovation. The FAA and Kansas aviation share a long history of setting flight standards. The time is right for the State of Kansas to provide expertise from the "Air Capital of the World" to serve the UAS community.

Kansas is heavily vested in UAS development. Kansas was the first state in the nation to name a Director of UAS, an office within KDOT currently led by Lt Col Bob Brock (USAF Ret). Col Brock brings experience and lessons gathered from command of intelligence and special operations UAS deployments. Kansas is the first state to have an operational Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) system in place for state agencies, all 138 airports and 37 institutions of higher education. Our experts on aviation, agriculture and disaster-relief are working directly with our UAS Joint Task Force, which includes 17 state agencies, universities and associations working together as one team to deliver economic development through safe UAS operating practices.

We fully support the efforts of KDOT as they seek your selection to support a program designed to build a safety case for integrating UAS into the low-altitude NAS by Kansas' public safety, research and corporate aviation partners.

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration of the KDOT proposal.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator

Ron Estes

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins

Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress

Roger W Marshall

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Kevin Yoder

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress