



SMALL UAV
COALITION
*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

October 16, 2018

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

Mr. Dan Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Chao and Acting Administrator Elwell,

Among the many directives to the Department of Transportation included in the recently enacted FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, section 202 requires the Secretary to establish a Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee (“Safety Certification Committee”) and section 222 requires the FAA Administrator to establish a Task Force on Flight Standards Reform (“Flight Standards Reform Task Force”). The Safety Certification Committee must be established by December 4, 2018 and will exist for six years. The Flight Standards Reform Task Force must be in place by January 3, 2018, and is required to submit a report to Congress within one year of establishment.

Both the Safety Certification Committee and the Flight Standards Reform Task Force are required to include a representative of the unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”) community. One of at least eleven members of the Safety Certification Committee should represent the interests of UAS manufacturers and operators; one of not more than twenty members of the Flight Standards Reform Task Force must represent UAS operators.

Members of the [Small UAV Coalition](http://www.smalluavcoalition.org), the leading policy organization representing commercial UAS operators, manufacturers, and end users, offer unique technical and policy expertise and as such, have participated in every advisory committee, task force, and working group the FAA has set up since 2015 to address UAS integration issues. Members are also actively participating in the UAS Integration Pilot Program and the UTM System Pilot Program. Coalition members have significant interest in continuing to participate in any collaborative government-industry initiative to advance the safe and secure integration of UAS operators and operations into the National Airspace System. Mindful of the need to move quickly to comply with these two

congressional directives, the Coalition respectfully recommends that you consider appointing **Diana Cooper**, Senior Vice President, Policy and Strategy, PrecisionHawk; **Chris Jackman**, Certification Lead, Wing; and **Brian Whiteside**, Principal Program Manager, Amazon Prime Air as UAS representatives on the Safety Certification Committee and appointing **Jud McDougal**, Principal Program Manager, Worldwide Flight Operations, Amazon Prime Air as a UAS representative on the Flight Standards Reform Task Force.

A biography of each is enclosed with this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Walden
Aviation Counsel
Small UAV Coalition

Enclosures

Diana Cooper, Senior Policy and Strategy, PrecisionHawk

Diana Cooper is the Senior Vice President of Policy & Strategy at PrecisionHawk, a leader in commercial drone technology. PrecisionHawk has immersed itself at the forefront of policy and technology development efforts to help shape favorable drone regulations in America that both protect users of the National Airspace and the stakeholders beneath it, while promoting innovation and the economic interests of our country. In order to move the industry forward, Diana commits her expertise to several industry initiatives including the FAA Aviation Rulemaking Committee on Remote ID and Tracking, which was created to help the agency create standards for remotely identifying and tracking unmanned aircraft during operations. Diana is also President of the Small UAV Coalition, which brings together leading technology companies working together to pave the way for commercial, philanthropic, and civil use of small UAVs. Additionally, Diana serves on the FAA Drone Advisory Subcommittee. She also sits on the board of several international coalitions like Unmanned Systems Canada, AUVSI and Drone Alliance Europe.

Prior to joining PrecisionHawk, Diana developed and led the UAS and Robotics Practice Group at the law firm of LaBarge Weinstein. Diana has presented on technology law issues at Stanford University, Columbia University, New York University and NASA. She is a legal contributor at Robohub and her articles have appeared in publications including Private Equity Manager, The Corporate Counsellor, The Lawyer's PC and Linux Journal. Diana has been quoted on regulatory issues surrounding drones by media outlets including Forbes, The New York Times, The Guardian, Popular Science, The Globe and Mail, CBC and NPR. This year, Diana testified in a Senate Commerce hearing on UAS and was named one of the most influential people in the drone industry by Dronelife.

Chris Jackman, Certification Lead, Wing

Chris Jackman currently leads certification activities for Wing, Alphabet's delivery drone service effort, in the US. He comes with a deep background in systems & safety engineering and manned aircraft certification including Type Certification of the first very light jet in 2006, at the time VLJs were the new entrant and did not fit squarely in the then-present regulatory framework. Chris has been a FAA Designated Engineering Representative (DER) since 2006 and has authorizations in Electrical, Mechanical, and Powerplant areas for Part 23 and Part 25 aircraft.

Chris is a fixed wing aircraft pilot with Glider & Single Engine Land ratings and is pursuing an instrument rating. Chris is also a member of the Civil Air Patrol and actively participates in ASTM's F38 committee on sUAS.

Brian Whiteside, Principal Program Manager, Amazon Prime Air

Brian is the Principal Program Manager for the Certification Program at Amazon Prime Air. For the past 10 years Brian has been a pioneer in the unmanned systems industry focused on the commercial application of unmanned aircraft. These operations have involved both government and commercial applications that deployed systems and personnel worldwide using a range of technologies and air vehicles. Brian is a licensed pilot and former Naval Aviator

who is also qualified as an instructor, mission commander and payload operator for numerous unmanned systems.

Brian has been serving the UAS community in a variety of capacities including testifying before Congress, presenting for ICAO, and volunteering for numerous committees and trade associations. Regionally, Brian was the President of the Cascade Chapter of AUVSI (Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International), a Governor appointee to the Oregon State Board of Aviation, and was a member of the Helicopter Association International UAS committee.

Jud McDougal, Principal Program Manager, Worldwide Flight Operations, Amazon Prime Air

Jud is the Principal Program Manager for Worldwide Flight Operations Compliance at Amazon Prime Air. He manages multiple programs within Prime Air including Flight Standards and Evaluation; Aircrew Training; and UAS certifications.

In addition to his work at Amazon, Jud is an Instructor Aircraft Commander in the Air Force Reserve and has over 3000 hours in various military and civilian aircraft. He actively contributes/co-chairs with ASTM and other industry groups involved with UAS/UTM development and participates in FAA-sponsored UAS research efforts. In addition to his aviation experience, he holds Master of Aerospace Science (MAS) and Juris Doctor (J.D.) advanced degrees.