



**SMALL UAV
COALITION**
*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger,

As the Senate and House Appropriations Committee prepare important legislation to further equip the United States government to combat the spread of the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19), the Small UAV Coalition¹ wishes to express its support for funds directed to the use of innovative technologies, including unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones, to amplify response efforts. Drones are already being used both in the United States and overseas to deliver lifesaving medical supplies, including blood and medications. As we have seen as part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) UAS Integration Pilot Program (UAS IPP), hospitals can also use drones to transport lab samples from one part of their facilities to another to expedite testing. These types of operations can also make the difference between life and death when it comes to reaching patients in remote areas.

Perhaps even more important today, using drones to deliver goods to coronavirus patients or potential patients or to facilitate lab testing can reduce human contact, and therefore the potential to spread the virus. The Coalition therefore urges you designate specific supplementary funds to support these types of operations.

The Coalition has also urged the Secretary of Transportation and the FAA Administrator to use any existing authority to facilitate the use of UAS to assist in the coronavirus response efforts in

¹ Members of the Small UAV Coalition are listed at www.smalluavcoalition.org.

the United States. This could include expediting consideration of waiver requests to assist in the response to coronavirus, favorably considering such requests provided these operations are conducted safely, and authorizing package delivery operations beyond the visual line of sight of the remote pilot.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Walden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gregory S. Walden
Aviation Counsel
Small UAV Coalition

Copy to:
Vice President Mike Pence
Chair, Coronavirus Task Force