

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1759

A RESOLUTION urging the Federal Aviation Administration to accept Kansas' application for the Unmanned Aerial Systems Integration Pilot Program.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established a pilot program to speed the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS) by creating partnerships between government bodies, UAS operators and other private stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the program is to conduct advanced UAS operations safely and with public support with oversight by the FAA; and

WHEREAS, The program is designed to tackle the most significant challenges in integrating drones into the national airspace while reducing risks to public safety and security; and

WHEREAS, The program is further designed to provide greater regulatory certainty and stability to local governments and communities; and

WHEREAS, Industries within the State of Kansas could see immediate opportunities from the program, including commerce, search and rescue, emergency management, precision agriculture and infrastructure inspections and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, The program will evaluate a number of operational concepts, including night operations, flights over people, flights beyond the pilot's line of sight, package delivery, detect-and-avoid technologies, counter-UAS security operations, reliability and security of data links between pilots and aircraft, and local management of UAS operations subject to FAA oversight; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas is heavily vested in UAS and is demonstrating national leadership in this industry by becoming the first state to have an operational unmanned traffic management system in place for state agencies, all 138 airports and 37 institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, The program is an opportunity for state, local, and tribal governments to partner with private sector entities, such as UAS operators or manufacturers, to accelerate safe UAS integration; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas submitted an application to be included in the pilot program conducted by the FAA: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to consider and select the application made by the State of Kansas in order to further promote unmanned aerial systems and the associated industries in Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Chao and an enrolled copy to each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

Senate Resolution No. 1759 was sponsored by Senators Petersen, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Bollier, Bowers, Denning, Doll, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Francisco, Givens, Goddard, Haley, Hardy, Hawk, Hensley, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kelly, Kerschen, Longbine, Lynn, Masterson, McGinn, Olson, Pettey, Pilcher-Cook, Pyle, Rogers, Schmidt, Skubal, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle and Wilborn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.