

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2730

To establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory
Committee.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2019

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone
Advisory Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Drone Advisory Com-
5 mittee for the 21st Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 2016, a Drone Advisory Committee (in
9 this section referred to as the “DAC”) was estab-
10 lished at the Federal Aviation Administration (in

1 this Act referred to as the “FAA”) as a broad-
2 based, long-term Federal advisory committee to pro-
3 vide the FAA with advice on key unmanned aircraft
4 systems (in this Act referred to as “UAS”) integra-
5 tion issues by helping to identify challenges and
6 prioritize improvements.

7 (2) Pursuant to FAA Order 1110.157, dated
8 June 15, 2018, the DAC is charged with helping
9 create broad support for an overall UAS integration
10 strategy and vision.

11 (3) As of the date of introduction of this legis-
12 lation, no direct representatives from rural America
13 or the agriculture, forestry, or rangeland sectors
14 were members of the DAC.

15 (4) According to the FAA’s 2019 market fore-
16 cast, the market for UAS is growing faster than an-
17 ticipated.

18 (5) The agricultural drone market has an esti-
19 mated value in the realm of \$250,000,000 and is
20 predicted to grow substantially.

21 (6) Recent studies have suggested as many as
22 three out of every four farmers in the United States
23 “are currently using or considering adopting [UAS]
24 technology to assess, monitor and manage their
25 farm”.

1 (7) Rural counties are the majority of counties
2 in the United States.

3 (8) Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Com-
4 mittee Act, Congress is to determine whether or not
5 the Federal advisory committees are “fairly balanced
6 in terms of the points of view represented”.

7 **SEC. 3. DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The FAA shall maintain a
9 Drone Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as
10 the “Committee”).

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide inde-
12 pendent advice and recommendations to, and respond to
13 specific other tasks requested by, the FAA regarding
14 issues involving the efficiency and safety of integrating un-
15 manned aircraft systems into the National Airspace Sys-
16 tem.

17 (c) CHARTER.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a charter to
19 govern the structure and mission of the Committee.

20 (2) UPDATES.—The Administrator of the FAA
21 (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”)
22 shall—

23 (A) review the charter under paragraph (1)
24 not less frequently than once every two years;
25 and

1 (B) update such charter as appropriate.

2 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist
4 of individuals with a balance of backgrounds, experi-
5 ences, and viewpoints, and shall include individuals
6 that directly represent—

7 (A) airports and airport communities;

8 (B) labor (such as controllers and pilots);

9 (C) State, county, city, and Tribal govern-
10 ments;

11 (D) navigation, communication, surveil-
12 lance, and air traffic management capability
13 providers;

14 (E) research, development, and academia;

15 (F) traditional manned aviation operators;

16 (G) UAS hardware component manufac-
17 turers;

18 (H) UAS manufacturers;

19 (I) UAS operators, including agriculture,
20 forestry, and rangeland sectors;

21 (J) UAS software application manufactur-
22 ers; and

23 (K) other sectors determined appropriate
24 by the Administrator.

1 (2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—To the maximum
2 extent practicable, the Administrator shall include
3 public participation in the process of nominating in-
4 dividuals for membership on the Committee.

5 (e) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall en-
6 sure that the Committee complies with the requirements
7 under—

8 (1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
9 U.S.C. App.); and

10 (2) section 552b of title 5, United States Code
11 (commonly known as the “Government in the Sun-
12 shine Act”).

13 (f) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
14 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
15 section.

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