

September 24, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services  
226 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services  
226 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

The advancement of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as “drones,” in the U.S. continues to provide all levels of government and industry with a vital tool, whether that be for operations to collect data to improve efficiency or conducting missions that save lives. While this nascent technology continues to be explored and further use cases developed there are U.S. policies currently being considered that would remove access or the ability to use a majority of drones from both government and industry users.

Over the past year, drone technology has come under severe scrutiny by Administration and congressional detractors, not because of its functionality, but because of where the majority of drones and drone components are made. Under the guise of national security concerns, policymakers are trying to implement protectionist policies that will benefit a select few companies, while the consequences will have far reaching ramifications across many industries and the drone ecosystem.

As the Coalition for Drones in American Businesses, we are companies and organizations that will be directly impacted by “country-of-origin” policies and the dangerous precedents they establish. We advocate for policies and standards that more adequately weigh real security risks against the safety, economic, and environmental benefits of UAS technology.

As the House and Senate embark on conference committee negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, H.R. 6395/S. 4049, we would implore you to not include Section 830B of H.R. 6395 in the final conference report. This “country-of-origin” provision stands to stymie innovation and the adoption of aerial tools that have shown time and time again that they can save lives, time, and money.

To put this in perspective, all one needs to do is look at the effects of the Department of Interior’s (DOI) Secretarial Order 3379, which was issued on January 29, 2020, for a snapshot of what would be expanded on in Section 830B. This DOI policy bans the procurement or use of drones based solely on the country where they are manufactured. As numerous federal stakeholders have identified, this is effectively a ban on the technology as a whole. This Order has resulted in numerous negative impacts such as grounding

the Department's entire drone fleet, impairing their ability to prepare for wildfire season, preventing companies from operating drones to conduct inspections and other missions at their facilities on DOI-managed lands, and cancelling trainings for state and local public safety agencies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to working with you on real solutions to real problems.

Respectfully,



**Drone Amplified**



**Skycatch**



**A-Cam Aerials**



**FlyAblity**



**Drone Service Providers  
Alliance**



**Moss Photography**



**Gresco**



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**Aerial Armor**



**DroneBase**



**droneUp**

**DroneUp**

Cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
The Honorable Gary Peters  
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney  
The Honorable James Comer

