

Calendar No. 560

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2730

[Report No. 116–272]

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. ROBERTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 29), 2020

Reported by Mr. WICKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In 2016, a Drone Advisory Committee (in
4 this section referred to as the “DAC”) was estab-
5 lished at the Federal Aviation Administration (in
6 this Act referred to as the “FAA”) as a broad-
7 based, long-term Federal advisory committee to pro-
8 vide the FAA with advice on key unmanned aircraft
9 systems (in this Act referred to as “UAS”) integra-
10 tion issues by helping to identify challenges and
11 prioritize improvements.

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

16 (3) As of the date of introduction of this legis-
17 lation, no direct representatives from rural America
18 or the agriculture, forestry, or rangeland sectors
19 were members of the DAC.

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

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 3. DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

13 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The FAA shall maintain a
14 Drone Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as
15 the “Committee”).

16 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Committee shall provide inde-
17 pendent advice and recommendations to, and respond to
18 specific other tasks requested by, the FAA regarding
19 issues involving the efficiency and safety of integrating un-
20 manned aircraft systems into the National Airspace Sys-
21 tem.

22 (c) **CHARTER.**—

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

1 (2) ~~UPDATES.~~—The Administrator of the FAA
2 (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”)
3 shall—

4 (A) review the charter under paragraph (1)
5 not less frequently than once every two years;
6 and

7 (B) update such charter as appropriate.

8 (d) ~~MEMBERSHIP.~~—

9 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The Committee shall consist
10 of individuals with a balance of backgrounds, experi-
11 ences, and viewpoints, and shall include individuals
12 that directly represent—

13 (A) airports and airport communities;

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

15 (C) State, county, city, and Tribal govern-
16 ments;

17 (D) navigation, communication, surveil-
18 lance, and air traffic management capability
19 providers;

20 (E) research, development, and academia;

21 (F) traditional manned aviation operators;

22 (G) UAS hardware component manufac-
23 turers;

24 (H) UAS manufacturers;

1 (~~I~~) UAS operators, including agriculture,
2 forestry, and rangeland sectors;

3 (~~J~~) UAS software application manufactur-
4 ers; and

5 (~~K~~) other sectors determined appropriate
6 by the Administrator.

7 (~~2~~) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—To the maximum
8 extent practicable, the Administrator shall include
9 public participation in the process of nominating in-
10 dividuals for membership on the Committee.

11 (~~e~~) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall en-
12 sure that the Committee complies with the requirements
13 under—

14 (~~1~~) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (~~5~~
15 U.S.C. App.); and

16 (~~2~~) section 552b of title 5, United States Code
17 (commonly known as the “Government in the Sun-
18 shine Act”).

19 (~~f~~) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
21 section.

22 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

23 *This Act may be cited as the “Drone Advisory Com-*
24 *mittee for the 21st Century Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 *It is the Sense of Congress that:*

3 (1) *Due to the ever-increasing use of Unmanned*
4 *Aircraft Systems in the agriculture, forestry, and*
5 *rangeland sectors, as well as the inherently different*
6 *uses in less populated parts of the nation, membership*
7 *of the Drone Advisory Committee established by the*
8 *Federal Aviation Administration should, to the extent*
9 *practicable, include direct representatives from county*
10 *and tribal government, agriculture, forestry, and*
11 *rangeland interests.*

12 (2) *Full transparency in the work of the Drone*
13 *Advisory Committee is vital to ensuring the public*
14 *can effectively participate and contribute to the devel-*
15 *opment of sound Federal policies. The Administrator*
16 *of the Federal Aviation Administration should, to the*
17 *maximum extent practicable, ensure the work of the*
18 *Drone Advisory Committee is shared with and easily*
19 *accessible to the public and shall ensure transparency*
20 *and openness in the manner in which the affairs of*
21 *the Committee are conducted.*

22 **SEC. 3. DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.**

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Federal Aviation Admin-*
24 *istration shall take appropriate steps to encourage di-*
25 *rect representation of county and tribal governments*
26 *as well as agriculture, forestry, rangeland sectors, and*

1 *other rural interests on the Drone Advisory Com-*
2 *mittee.*

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

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