

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 14, 2016

Mr. Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Re: Licking County Section 333 Exemption Request (Docket No. FAA-2015-3933-0001)

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write to bring to your attention the Petition of Licking County for an Exemption under Section 333 of the FAA Reform Act.

As you may know, Licking County has a population of nearly 170,000 citizens. The local government provides a variety of core services including maintenance of critical infrastructure and floodplain administration.

The Licking County Planning Commission has submitted an application for an exemption to operate its unmanned aerial system (UAS) commercially for the purpose of local government functions including funding infrastructure and utility structure inspection, precision aerial surveys and analysis, aerial inspection of land and structures, maintenance services, and aerial videography and photography. This includes reviewing critical development for the Buckeye Lake region, an important aspect of the economy in the county.

It is my understanding that Licking County officials have made considerable efforts to ensure its operations meet an equivalent level of safety when compared to manned aviation, and that there are significant gains in terms of efficiency, safety, and costs from inspections with the proposed drone.

I fully support the FAA's mandate to maintain the safety of our airspace. I'm told that this application has been pending since August of 2015 and therefore I respectfully request that the FAA complete its review of this petition as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your immediate consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator