



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
Chairman
328 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
Ranking Member
503 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill,

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies, would like to commend the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for their efforts with S. 2836: *Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018*. We fully support the intent of this needed legislation and commend you for addressing this growing public safety priority.

While we endorse the purposes articulated in the current version, Major Cities Chiefs cannot support the bill in its present form. It does not address the role and authority of local law enforcement and does not provide for Federal coordination with local agencies. As noted in the testimony from the NFL, State and local law enforcement provide security in most of the situations where drones present a threat, and the Federal government will never have sufficient numbers of trained personnel to address the threat across the Nation.

We ask that the Committee direct the Department of Homeland Security Office of State and Local Law Enforcement (DHS OSLE) to prepare a plan for federal coordination with law enforcement agencies that recognizes the role and authority of local jurisdictions. We would also like to call your attention to the resolution adopted by the U.S Conference of Mayors regarding S. 2836 and their recognition of the potential benefits of unmanned aircrafts, but concern for first responders carrying out their duties and the involvement or disruption a drone may cause.

We urge the Committee to strengthen the bill by including first responders and we will reserve our endorsement and advocacy for an expanded version of this much needed legislation. Major Cities Chiefs look to you for leadership and commit to continued support for the critical work of your Committee.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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