



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

August 2, 2022

Albuquerque  
Arlington TX  
Atlanta  
Aurora  
Austin  
Baltimore  
Baltimore Co.  
Boston  
Buffalo  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Chicago  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dallas  
DeKalb Co.  
Denver  
Detroit  
El Paso  
Fairfax Co.  
Fort Worth  
Fresno  
Honolulu  
Houston  
Indianapolis  
Jacksonville  
Kansas City  
Las Vegas  
Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Co.  
Louisville  
Memphis  
Mesa  
Miami  
Miami-Dade  
Milwaukee  
Minneapolis  
Montgomery Co.  
Nashville  
Nassau Co.  
New Orleans  
New York City  
Newark  
Oakland  
Oklahoma City  
Omaha  
Orlando  
Philadelphia  
Phoenix  
Pittsburgh  
Portland  
Prince George's Co.  
Raleigh  
Sacramento  
Salt Lake City  
San Antonio  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Seattle  
St. Louis  
St. Louis Co.  
Suffolk Co.  
Tampa  
Tucson  
Tulsa  
Virginia Beach  
Washington DC  
Wichita

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Margaret Hassan  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Peters, Senator Johnson, Senator Sinema, and Senator Hassan,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to express our support for S. 4687, the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2022*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Unauthorized drones continue to represent an emerging threat to our communities. MCCA members routinely observe drones unlawfully flying above mass gatherings, such as concerts or festivals, and over stadiums and arenas during sporting and other large-scale events. Considering how this technology has been used maliciously overseas, unauthorized drones undoubtedly constitute a significant public safety risk. Drone operations near airports or other critical infrastructure in violation of federal, state, or local law can also grind transportation and commerce to a halt, which has significant financial ramifications.

Congress responded to the threat posed by unauthorized drones by passing the *Preventing Emerging Threats Act* in 2018, which provided counter-drone (cUAS) authorities to federal agencies. However, these authorities are set to expire in October of this year. S. 4687 will renew these critical authorities.

More importantly, however, the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act* will establish a pilot program that allows state and local law enforcement agencies, with proper training and policies in place, to exercise cUAS authorities. This pilot program will close a significant loophole in mitigating the threat posed by unauthorized drones. Despite having the overwhelming majority of public safety responsibilities throughout the nation, under current law, cUAS authorities do not extend to state and local law enforcement. This presents a significant challenge with respect to disrupting unlawful or unsafe drone operations.

Calgary, Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Montreal, Québec  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Peel Region, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
York Region, Ontario

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and continued support of law enforcement. The MCCA strongly encourages Congress to advance S. 4687 as expeditiously as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeri Williams".

Jeri Williams  
Chief, Phoenix Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association