



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 12, 2023

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 C. 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 John Hoeven
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Peters, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Sinema, and Sen. Hoeven,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 1631, the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023*. 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 later this year. S. 1631 will renew these critical authorities.

More importantly, however, the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023* 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 and your continued support of law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Garcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Garcia
Chief, Dallas Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association