



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

May 5, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray:

This letter is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) report to Congress in response to the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-103) Joint Explanatory Statement, page 16, which states:

The agreement directs the FAA to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this act on the agency's efforts to engage with public safety stakeholders on part 107 waivers.

The FAA is dedicated to assisting public safety stakeholders with the safe and lawful integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, to support their respective public safety missions. The FAA's efforts include working directly with public safety agencies to answer questions about waivers under part 107 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and assist with waiver applications, and other FAA processes. FAA staff provide assistance to public safety agencies on a one-on-one basis as well as through presentations at in-service training and public safety events. The organizations that the FAA has worked with include: the Airborne Public Safety Association; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Police Chiefs; the National Sheriffs' Association; the National Emergency Managers Association; the Law Enforcement Drone Association; and the Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International's public safety section.

The FAA employs people with knowledge of and experience in managing public safety programs to work with, and support outreach to, public safety stakeholders. These efforts relate to waivers needed to conduct complex operations, as well as other forms of support for public safety stakeholders. These other FAA efforts include:

- **Special Governmental Interest (SGI):** Sharing operational guidance for requesting an SGI, also known as an emergency flight authorization, for public safety agencies to operate on-demand in response to public safety emergencies. This process can waive certain part 107 regulations to support public safety emergency operations.

- **Public Safety Webinars and Outreach Events:** Conducting pre-recorded and live broadcasts that explain, in an easy-to-understand format, how to accomplish UAS missions and secure a part 107 waiver. The webinars and events include:
 - **Monthly Drone Responders Webinars:** The FAA participates in a monthly public safety webinar series with Drone Responders, a non-profit organization created for first responders, emergency managers, and search and rescue specialists who use UAS.
 - **Best Practices for First Responders (Public Safety Community) Webinar (August 8, 2022):** The FAA recently hosted a recorded webinar for public safety organizations. The webinar featured FAA staff and experienced first responders sharing information on best practices and resources available to law enforcement. The recorded webinar is available on the FAA's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/M3j1gaVIDGA>.
 - **Public Safety Conferences:** The FAA regularly participates in conferences hosted by state and regional public safety associations. FAA staff participation includes appearing as panelists and staffing information booths.
- **FAA UAS Support Center:** Staffing a UAS support team that answers public safety-related questions and assists with waiver requests.
 - The FAA has responded to over 750 Support Center inquiries from public safety stakeholders in the past year. The UAS support team can be reached at UASHelp@faa.gov or 844-FLYMYUA.
- **Additional Resources:** Providing additional resources for public safety stakeholders on the FAA.gov webpage. These resources include:
 - The public safety tool kit includes guidance on starting a UAS program and is available at: https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/public_safety_toolkit/
 - Specific information on applying for part 107 waivers is available at: https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/part_107_waivers.

A similar letter has been sent to the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Nolen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Billy Nolen
Acting Administrator



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800 Independence Ave., S.W.
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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Vice Chair Collins:

This letter is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) report to Congress in response to a requirement in the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-103) Joint Explanatory Statement, page 16, which states:

The agreement directs the FAA to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this act on the agency's efforts to engage with public safety stakeholders on part 107 waivers.

The FAA is dedicated to assisting public safety stakeholders with the safe and lawful integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, to support their respective public safety missions. The FAA's efforts include working directly with public safety agencies to answer questions about waivers under part 107 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and assist with waiver applications, and other FAA processes. FAA staff provide assistance to public safety agencies on a one-on-one basis as well as through presentations at in-service training and public safety events. The organizations that the FAA has worked with include: the Airborne Public Safety Association; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Police Chiefs; the National Sheriffs' Association; the National Emergency Managers Association; the Law Enforcement Drone Association; and the Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International's public safety section.

The FAA employs people with knowledge of and experience in managing public safety programs to work with, and support outreach to, public safety stakeholders. These efforts relate to waivers needed to conduct complex operations, as well as other forms of support for public safety stakeholders. These other FAA efforts include:

- **Special Governmental Interest (SGI):** Sharing operational guidance for requesting an SGI, also known as an emergency flight authorization, for public safety agencies to operate on-demand in response to public safety emergencies. This process can waive certain part 107 regulations to support public safety emergency operations.

- **Public Safety Webinars and Outreach Events:** Conducting pre-recorded and live broadcasts that explain, in an easy-to-understand format, how to accomplish UAS missions and secure a part 107 waiver. The webinars and events include:
 - **Monthly Drone Responders Webinars:** The FAA participates in a monthly public safety webinar series with Drone Responders, a non-profit organization created for first responders, emergency managers, and search and rescue specialists who use UAS.
 - **Best Practices for First Responders (Public Safety Community) Webinar (August 8, 2022):** The FAA recently hosted a recorded webinar for public safety organizations. The webinar featured FAA staff and experienced first responders sharing information on best practices and resources available to law enforcement. The recorded webinar is available on the FAA's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/M3j1gaVIDGA>.
 - **Public Safety Conferences:** The FAA regularly participates in conferences hosted by state and regional public safety associations. FAA staff participation includes appearing as panelists and staffing information booths.
- **FAA UAS Support Center:** Staffing a UAS support team that answers public safety-related questions and assists with waiver requests.
 - The FAA has responded to over 750 Support Center inquiries from public safety stakeholders in the past year. The UAS support team can be reached at UASHelp@faa.gov or 844-FLYMYUA.
- **Additional Resources:** Providing additional resources for public safety stakeholders on the FAA.gov webpage. These resources include:
 - The public safety tool kit includes guidance on starting a UAS program and is available at: https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/public_safety_toolkit/
 - Specific information on applying for part 107 waivers is available at: https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/part_107_waivers.

A similar letter has been sent to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,



Billy Nolen
Acting Administrator



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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger:

This letter is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) report to Congress in response to a requirement in the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-103) Joint Explanatory Statement, page 16, which states:

The agreement directs the FAA to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this act on the agency's efforts to engage with public safety stakeholders on part 107 waivers.

The FAA is dedicated to assisting public safety stakeholders with the safe and lawful integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, to support their respective public safety missions. The FAA's efforts include working directly with public safety agencies to answer questions about waivers under part 107 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and assist with waiver applications, and other FAA processes. FAA staff provide assistance to public safety agencies on a one-on-one basis as well as through presentations at in-service training and public safety events. The organizations that the FAA has worked with include: the Airborne Public Safety Association; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Police Chiefs; the National Sheriffs' Association; the National Emergency Managers Association; the Law Enforcement Drone Association; and the Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International's public safety section.

The FAA employs people with knowledge of and experience in managing public safety programs to work with, and support outreach to, public safety stakeholders. These efforts relate to waivers needed to conduct complex operations, as well as other forms of support for public safety stakeholders. These other FAA efforts include:

- **Special Governmental Interest (SGI):** Sharing operational guidance for requesting an SGI, also known as an emergency flight authorization, for public safety agencies to operate on-demand in response to public safety emergencies. This process can waive certain part 107 regulations to support public safety emergency operations.

- **Public Safety Webinars and Outreach Events:** Conducting pre-recorded and live broadcasts that explain, in an easy-to-understand format, how to accomplish UAS missions and secure a part 107 waiver. The webinars and events include:
 - **Monthly Drone Responders Webinars:** The FAA participates in a monthly public safety webinar series with Drone Responders, a non-profit organization created for first responders, emergency managers, and search and rescue specialists who use UAS.
 - **Best Practices for First Responders (Public Safety Community) Webinar (August 8, 2022):** The FAA recently hosted a recorded webinar for public safety organizations. The webinar featured FAA staff and experienced first responders sharing information on best practices and resources available to law enforcement. The recorded webinar is available on the FAA's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/M3j1gaVIDGA>.
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 - Specific information on applying for part 107 waivers is available at: https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/part_107_waivers.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,



Billy Nolen
Acting Administrator



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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member DeLauro:

This letter is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) report to Congress in response to a requirement in the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-103) Joint Explanatory Statement, page 16, which states:

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The FAA is dedicated to assisting public safety stakeholders with the safe and lawful integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, to support their respective public safety missions. The FAA's efforts include working directly with public safety agencies to answer questions about waivers under part 107 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and assist with waiver applications, and other FAA processes. FAA staff provide assistance to public safety agencies on a one-on-one basis as well as through presentations at in-service training and public safety events. The organizations that the FAA has worked with include: the Airborne Public Safety Association; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Police Chiefs; the National Sheriffs' Association; the National Emergency Managers Association; the Law Enforcement Drone Association; and the Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International's public safety section.

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Sincerely,



Billy Nolen
Acting Administrator