



Express support, if amended,
for S. 1272 (Feinstein, D-California)
—Drone Federalism Act of 2017

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-2

October 9, 2017

Background

- Use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) expanding
 - Government, commercial, and recreational uses
 - Used for construction imaging, infrastructure monitoring, emergency management, filmmaking, and photogrammetry
 - Unauthorized drone flights over Metropolitan facilities pose potential security and safety risks
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has primary authority over national airspace
 - Local jurisdiction's also impose restrictions
 - Court decisions question degree of local and federal control

Background (cont.)



S. 1272 (Feinstein)

As introduced

- Recognizes FAA's general authority over national airspace (above 400 ft. and near airfields)
- Preserves the ability for state, local, and tribal governments to issue restrictions on low-altitude drone operations
 - Effective within 200 ft. above ground or structure
 - Allows reasonable restrictions to protect public safety, personal privacy, property rights, and restrict nuisances
- Establishes pilot program and requires report on effectiveness after two years

Impact to Metropolitan

- Proliferation of drones could pose safety and security risk for Metropolitan operations
 - S. 1272 would allow Metropolitan to advocate for reasonable low-altitude drone restrictions at a local level
 - Examples include flight restrictions over critical facilities, environmentally sensitive areas, or recreational areas
- Seeking one amendment
 - Bill does not distinguish between government, commercial, and hobbyist flights
 - Seek amendment to clarify that government operations (public aircraft) are not restricted

S. 1272 Support

● Co-Authors

- Senators Lee (R-Utah), Blumenthal (D-Conn.), and Cotton (R-Ark.)

● Support

- The United States Conference of Mayors
- National League of Cities
- National Association of Counties
- National Governors Association
- National Association of State Aviation Officials
- National Agricultural Aviation Association

S. 1272 Opposition

- Opposition
 - Property Drone Consortium

Board Options

- Option 1

- Adopt CEQA determination
- Authorize the General Manager to express support, if amended, for S. 1272

- Option 2

- Take no position on S. 1272

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

