

Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 East Memorial Drive
Muncie, Indiana 47302
(765) 287-1256 – Business
(765) 289-4248 – Fax
(800) 435-9262 – Membership Services
<http://www.modelaircraft.org>



January 22, 2015

Mr. Michael Huerta, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Administrator Huerta:

First, let me thank you for your support of the Know Before You Fly campaign launched in late December 2014. The Academy of Model Aeronautics agrees with our campaign partners that this initiative will be of great value in guiding new sUAS enthusiasts to operate safely and responsibly in the National Airspace System (NAS). AMA's 78 years of experience tells us that most enthusiasts want to operate safely, and will do so with the proper guidance.

In your recent CNN interview and in the remarks made by Margaret Gilligan during a hearing of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation, comments were made that the FAA is working with the AMA to create ways to manage the recreational sUAS community. AMA has always believed that the best, and perhaps the only, way to successfully manage the recreational community is through a community-based set of safety guidelines and the combined efforts of the FAA and AMA.

Although we may differ in some respects regarding FAA's interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft and Congress' intent in Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, AMA continues to be supportive of the FAA and its mission to ensure the safety of the NAS.

I want to suggest a meeting between AMA and the appropriate representatives of FAA's executive management to see if we can identify areas of common agreement on the Interpretive Rule. This is something the FAA leadership indicated might be possible when we met in July 2014.

In the spirit of our Memorandum of Agreement signed in January 2014, I would like to again offer our expertise and knowledge in support of the FAA's effort to create guidance for the operation of recreational sUAS in the NAS. Although this is something that will eventually be addressed in the sUAS rule, that rule still appears to be 18 to 24 months away. I think we would all agree that the need is more immediate and that everyone would benefit from a collaborative effort to help provide the guidance to enthusiasts that is so sorely needed today.

I look forward to hearing from you and to the possibility of meeting to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Brown
President