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### **DC SFRA BACK OPEN TO MODEL AIRCRAFT**

**MUNCIE, Ind.** – *Dave Mathewson, executive director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), which is the world’s largest community-based organization whose members fly model aircraft for recreational and educational purposes, today made the following statement on the agreement reached with the FAA to fly within the DC Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA):*

“We are pleased that after weeks of working closely with the AMA and our local chartered clubs, the FAA today updated the conditions for flying unmanned aircraft in the Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) surrounding the DC metropolitan area. The permanent Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) published by the FAA allows our members to resume flight inside the DC SFRA. We want to thank Administrator Huerta and the FAA for working closely with us so that our 14 chartered clubs in the area can now return to safe operations starting on February 10.

“AMA has long worked collaboratively with the FAA to find solutions that allow for our long-time educational hobby to continue without incident in our nation’s airspace. Our members consistently abide by federal and local policies and for decades have followed AMA’s comprehensive set of safety and privacy guidelines, which are constantly evolving to accommodate new technologies and new modeling disciplines.

“For 80 years, our members have been flying safely and responsibly. However, it is critically important that everyone wishing to fly inside the Special Flight Rules Area abide by the conditions established for the SFRA and continue to follow the safety guidelines. That’s part of the reason why AMA has been working closely with the FAA and the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) on the Know Before You Fly campaign to educate newcomers to model aviation and drone technology about where they should and shouldn’t fly. Our community-based approach is proof that education is the key to enhancing safety.”

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*The FAA has issued a permanent NOTAM for the SFRA. This outlines specific parameters for all recreational flyers to follow in order to fly within the area. More information available here: <http://1.usa.gov/20Te24W>*

*The Academy of Model Aeronautics, founded in 1936, continues to be devoted to national airspace safety. It serves as the nation’s collective voice for approximately 187,000 modelers in 2,400 clubs in the United States and Puerto Rico. Headquartered in Muncie, Indiana, AMA is a membership organization representing those who fly model aircraft for recreation and educational purposes. For more information, visit [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org).*