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SCR4 – Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Sponsor Statement

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Unmanned Aircraft Systems continue to be one of the fastest growing technological platforms in the world. As the capabilities of these systems continues to advance, it is critically important that Alaska continue to be a leader in supporting this emerging industry, while being diligent to respect and safeguard Alaska's right to privacy.

The accomplishments of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration and the research conducted to advance this technology in a safe manner is unparalleled in the world. This is due in large part to the public / private partnership for advancing this industry by the Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems first established by the 28th legislature in 2013.

SCR4 will allow this partnership to continue. Made up of legislators, government officials, and industry members, the task force will continue its work to consider recommendations for privacy, appropriate use, and possible remedies for misuse, then advance them to the legislature when necessary.

While national news has sparked debate regarding the privacy concerns and the integration into the U.S. National Airspace, Alaska must remain on the cutting edge of the policy formation to ensure we get a slice of the multi-billion dollar economic pie in the coming years. The task force will continue to educate the public about the safe and appropriate use of drones and monitor Federal Aviation Administration regulations, industry codes of conduct, and industry needs in order to determine the changes that may be necessary to protect the privacy of all Alaskans. The task force will work to help ensure the advancement of this innovative industry may continue to offer cost-saving and life-saving solutions to our state where aviation is, and will continue to be, very important to Alaskans' everyday lives.

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