

EDC RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ALASKA CENTER FOR
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INTEGRATION (UAF) PROGRAM,
ALASKA'S SELECTION AS AN FAA TEST SITE ON DECEMBER 30, 2013, AND
ACKNOWLEDGING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING
PRIVACY RIGHTS WHILE ALLOWING RESPONSIBLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY
IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Economic Development Commission (EDC) is responsible for recommending actions that will help develop and strengthen the FNSB economy; and

WHEREAS, the EDC recognizes the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as the state's leader in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) research; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of UAS are diverse from search and rescue; delivering medical supplies to remote locations; firefighting; Arctic and volcanic research; monitoring pipelines, pollution, wildlife, traffic and floods; precision agriculture; aerial, forensic and real estate photography; and event security to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International 2013 study on the economic impact of unmanned aircraft nationwide shows that in Alaska, direct jobs have the potential to bring in \$19 million with 95 jobs from 2015 to 2017 and it increases from there to \$112 million with 141 jobs between 2015 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2013 through a joint proposal with Oregon and Hawaii, Alaska was selected as one of six test sites nationwide by the Federal Aviation Administration to research and test for safe integration of UAS into the national airspace; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Alaska Legislative Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems was established to provide a comprehensive state policy for unmanned aircraft that protects privacy and allows for the use of unmanned aircraft systems for public and private applications; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska constitution and state law provide some of the greatest privacy protections compared to other states; and

WHEREAS, the task force met and evaluated existing privacy laws for Alaska without recommending duplicative laws for UAS; and

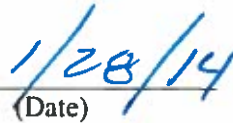
WHEREAS, HCR 15, "Relating to the continuation of the Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems" recommends extension of the task force until June 30, 2017 to serve as a public body to evaluate complaints and concerns regarding UAS, provide written recommendations and legislation, review regulations and guidance from the FAA, and continue with public hearings identifying any potential privacy concerns; and

WHEREAS, HB 255, "An Act relating to unmanned aircraft systems; and relating to images captured by an unmanned aircraft system" supports protecting privacy rights while allowing responsible economic development of the UAS industry in the State of Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission acknowledges their support of the legislation proposed by the Legislative Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and urges the passage of HB 255 and HCR 15.

Approved


Chair's Signature


(Date)