

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HCR6 Unmanned Aircraft Task Force

Sponsor Statement

April 1, 2013

HCR6 recognizes 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. The research team at the Center has proven that unmanned aircraft can complete tasks more efficiently than traditional means, provide better information, and reduce life safety risks to animals and humans.

HCR6 also recognizes that with new technology comes the need to revisit certain laws to ensure the safety of our citizens and protect their privacy. This resolution forms a task force made up of legislators, government officials, and industry members. The task force will consider recommendations for privacy, appropriate use, and possible remedies for misuse. A preliminary report to the legislature is due in January 2014 and a final report of recommendations due January 2015.

While national news has sparked debate regarding the privacy concerns and the use of "drones" in U.S. National Airspace, Alaska has responsibly used unmanned aircraft for more than ten years. Some privacy concerns are due to limited understanding of this technology and some concerns are justified. The task force will consider regulation already in place by the Federal Aviation Administration and industry codes of conduct while reviewing Alaska state laws to determine the changes that may be necessary to protect the privacy of all Alaskans.