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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Sponsor Statement

HCR 17 SUPPORT AVIATION INDUSTRY; USE STATE LAND

February 1, 2016

HCR 17 is the result of the work and recommendation of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Legislative Task Force based on its duty to encourage the development of the private sector unmanned aircraft system industry (UAS).

The resolution recognizes that the State of Alaska has excellent potential for economic growth in the field of UAS. The legislation encourages the State of Alaska to welcome the UAS industry to Alaska, to encourage the establishment of local UAS businesses, and to make state land available for research, manufacturing, testing, training, management, and operation of those systems.

The State of Alaska's land holdings are equivalent to 5% of the entire land mass of the United States. With many unmanned aircraft systems businesses across the nation looking for space to test, train, develop, and manufacture a variety of UAS technologies, Alaska should be at the forefront of advancing this industry.

By making space available to this industry, state agencies can increase opportunities for this niche industry to grow and succeed. Alaska has unpopulated space to allow for UAS to push limits without risk to individuals and property; this is a rare commodity compared to the populated lower 48. Let's take advantage of our state's unique attribute and pass this resolution as one more way to strengthen and diversify our economy.