



May 6, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

Halito (Hello!),

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) is submitting this letter to express our strong support and gratitude for H.R. 3935, the bipartisan, bicameral FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. The legislation includes critical reforms that will support emerging aviation technologies, including the development and integration of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) technologies. We believe these technologies have the potential to bring significant benefits to rural and tribal communities.

CNO is the third largest Indian Nation in the United States, with close to 200,000 tribal members and more than 11,000 employees. The CNO Reservation consists of nearly 11,000 square miles in the southeast corner of Oklahoma. CNO is an important economic driver for the region and is leading the way in bringing new technology-related industries and opportunities to the region and state of Oklahoma.

As one of the eight active FAA UAS BEYOND lead participants and sites, and the only Native American Tribal Government, selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to be part

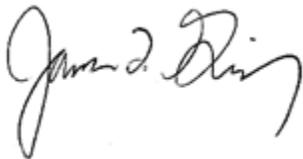
of the FAA UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP), we are extremely pleased to see the bill's extension of the BEYOND Program. As part of BEYOND and the IPP, CNO has worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other government agencies to unleash the incredible safety and efficiency benefits of UAS operations and move the civil UAS marketplace forward.

CNO's particular focus is on enabling expanded UAS operations that benefit rural and tribal communities. Many of the most promising and beneficial UAS applications, such as agricultural and public safety missions, require the ability to operate UAS beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) of the pilot. A clear regulatory pathway to enabling routine UAS BVLOS operations is essential to unleashing the incredible safety, efficiency and environmental benefits of UAS operations for Americans living in rural and tribal communities. The provisions in this bill include important reforms which are particularly important to CNO and will help enable more routine and scalable BVLOS operations that benefit all Americans.

We would also like to express our strong support for Senator Mullin's amendment, which would provide the FAA with additional authority to waive the requirements of section 44711 of title 49, United States Code, including related regulations, in carrying out the BEYOND Program. This waiver authority has played an essential role in supporting activities occurring at FAA-designated UAS Test Sites and extending this authority to the BEYOND Program will further streamline approval processes necessary for continued growth and integration of UAS into the National Airspace System.

We believe tribal governments and tribal communities have much to offer to the emerging aviation technology industries. This bill contains important reforms which will help enable expanded UAS operations that benefit rural and tribal communities and we appreciate the tremendous efforts of the Members of the Senate Commerce and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committees in crafting this bill.

Yakoke (Thank you!),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Grimsley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James L Grimsley, Executive Director
Advanced Technology Initiatives
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
E-mail: jgrimsley@choctawnation.com