April 27, 2022

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 5315, the Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Act.

NASAO is the nationally recognized voice for the public interest in aviation on behalf of the states and territories. NASAO represents state officials of all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico, who, as part of their many responsibilities, make decisions on funding aviation systems and airport infrastructure at our nation's more than 3,300 public-use airports.

The DIIG Act would authorize a grant program that provides $100 million to state, local, and tribal governments to purchase drones for infrastructure inspection purposes and $100 million to community colleges/universities to support drone education and workforce training programs.

State aviation agencies recognize the value in and are looking to leverage drone technology to inspect aging infrastructure. Drones protect workers, increase efficiency, reduce costs and lower carbon emissions. The DIIG Act will support the efforts of state, local and tribal governments to capitalize on those benefits while investing in workforce development programs to bolster the workforce of the future.

I urge you to vote ‘yes’ when the bill comes up for consideration at the upcoming Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure mark up. Thank you for your consideration and please reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Gregory Pecoraro
President and CEO