NSPS UAS Committee
Legislative Sub-Committee

Committee Chair: Joanne Williamson
Legislative Sub-Committee Chair: Craig Amey

National Legislation

State Legislation
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Website
http://cqrcengage.com/auvsi/statelegmap

Areas of Concern to watch for:

- Airspace restrictions – Only FAA can restrict airspace
- Local ordinances - Only FAA and states in conjunction with FAA should regulate airspace. If local governments restrict airspace, it would create a difficult patchwork airspace of various regulations.
- Trespass Issues. Trespass laws generally prohibit physical entry “upon” a property. FAA aircraft, which includes drones, are legally permitted to fly in airspace according to FAA regulations. FAA has stated that they regulate all airspace, i.e. “From the tops of the blades of grass”. Therefore, UAV flights over property is not subject to trespass (verify with your state laws).
- Invasion of Privacy. “Knee Jerk” legislation has resulted in bills introduced try to prohibit the taking of someone’s picture without authorization, making such action a felony. Taking pictures of people without their authorization has been done for a century via photogrammetry, scanners, and multiple other imaging platforms. It is not illegal. It is illegal if the intent, and/or use is for immoral purposes.
- Most laws are to restrict actions by hobbyists, but commercial users are not excluded. Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.

Suggested actions

- Monitor state legislation
- Legislatively create state UAS Task Force to establish guidelines for state UAS legislation. The attached link is Michigan’s UAS Task Force legislation and report, for example.
  - UAS Task Force Legislation:
  - Michigan UAS Task Force Report