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2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
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March 30th, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2216, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith,

As you prepare to develop the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018, we respectfully request your consideration of an emerging threat to our nation's military installations, assets and personnel.

Recent reports indicate that Islamic State fighters are increasingly deploying armed Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) against our men and women in uniform and our allies abroad. Our concern, which is echoed by military leaders and terrorism experts, is that as the tactics and technology of weaponized UAS are proven on battlefields abroad, they will be exported to our shores for attacks and espionage against the homeland.

In the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2017, the Committee completed critical work to defend our facilities and assets from the emerging threat of unmanned aircraft deployed for nefarious purposes. Although the Armed Services have the ability to interdict drones, in the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2018, we encourage the Committee to further clarify and strengthen the authority of those on-site and responsible for the security of covered facilities, assets and classified information to address this threat.

The emergence and wide adoption of UAS is an important chapter of aviation history. UAS applications represent opportunities across a variety of fields. As UAS become more prevalent and easily accessible, however, the threat of their misuse must be carefully weighed and addressed.

We look forward to working with you and all members of this committee to make sure our men and women in uniform have the resources and authorities they need to accomplish their missions. Thank you for your time and consideration on this request.

Sincerely,



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



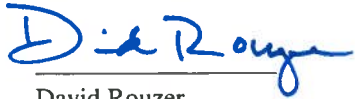
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