



May 2, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

On behalf of the membership of the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA), I would like to thank you for the great leadership you have provided in crafting and negotiating with the Senate the FAA Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 3935). The NAAA is in support of the legislation.

### **Agricultural Aviation Industry Background**

NAAA represents the interests of the 1,560 U.S. aerial application industry owner/operators and 2,028 non-operator agricultural pilots throughout licensed as commercial applicators that use aircraft to enhance the production of food, fiber, and bioenergy; protect forestry; protect waterways and rangeland from invasive species; and control health-threatening pests, including mosquitos and other insect pests that spread West Nile virus, Zika virus and other deadly diseases. Aerial application is an important method for applying crop inputs, for it permits large areas to be covered rapidly—by far the fastest application method of crop inputs—when it matters most. It takes advantage, more than any other form of application, of the often too-brief periods of acceptable weather for spraying and allows timely treatment of pests while they are in critical developmental stages, often over terrain that is too wet or otherwise inaccessible for terrestrial applications. It also treats above the crop canopy, thereby not disrupting the crop and damaging it. The aerial application industry treats nearly 127 million acres of U.S. cropland each season, which is about 28% of all cropland used for crop production in the U.S.—this doesn't include the 7.9 million acres of pasture and rangeland; 5.1 million acres of forestland; 5.2 million acres of mosquito and public health applications; and 3.8 million acres of cover crops by agricultural aircraft annually. Aerial pest control for managers of waterways and public health also adds to these many millions of acres.

### **Aerial Application Support of FAA Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 3935)**

NAAA is most pleased with the safety provisions in H.R. 3935 that protect manned ag aircraft in low-altitude airspace, such as language requiring the FAA to ensure the safety of low-altitude manned aircraft from drones, or uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) operating beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). In addition, the NAAA is also greatly supportive of language in the bill that the FAA promulgate the marking and logging of towers in rural areas between 50-200 feet with a width of 10 feet or less within one-year. That same timeline for the FAA to promulgate the tower marking and logging provisions was included back in the 2016 FAA Reauthorization Extension bill that you authored.

Again, Mr Chairman, thank you so much for your work ensuring the safety of the U.S. aerial application industry as it works to provide a safe, affordable and abundant supply of food, fiber, and bioenergy to the nation and the world.

Most sincerely,

Andrew D. Moore  
Chief Executive Officer