



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

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December 26, 2012

Ms. Sarah MacLeod  
Executive Director, Aeronautical Repair  
Station Association  
121 North Henry Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. MacLeod:

Thank you for your November 8 letter, cosigned by your industry colleagues, expressing support for our commitment to safely integrate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS). We value your input and appreciate your support.

We agree that the future of aviation will include UAS, and we are working diligently to integrate UAS operations into the NAS. As you know, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) primary mission is, and will continue to be, safety. We will complete our statutory obligations as required by the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to integrate UAS into the NAS as quickly and efficiently as possible; however, we must fulfill our obligations in a thoughtful and prudent manner. We will continue to work with our interagency partners, Congress, stakeholders, and the public to attain this objective.

Regarding fleet modifications, we do not anticipate that the integration of UAS into the NAS will impact requirements to modify existing fleets. Rather, we are working to ensure that UAS are compatible with planned NextGen enhancements and are incorporating UAS into NextGen planning activities.

Earlier this year, the FAA established the UAS Integration Office to provide a one-stop portal for civil and public-use UAS. This office will be staffed by experts from every part of the FAA to ensure that these systems can be integrated safely into the planned NextGen system without negatively impacting the many other NAS users. Having this office as an agency focal point will ensure agency progress in other key areas is not impacted. As always, we appreciate feedback and input from the aviation community, and we look forward to working together as we move aviation forward.

We have sent an identical letter to each of the cosigners of your letter.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Roderick D. Hall, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Huerta", with a circled flourish at the end.

Michael P. Huerta  
Acting Administrator