NetChoice *Promoting Convenience, Choice, and Commerce on The Net*

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Sen. Tom Casperson, Chair
Transportation Committee
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, MI

RE: ***Opposition to SB 920***

Dear Chairman Casperson and members of the committee,

We ask that you not advance SB 920.

We agree with the intent to install reasonable regulations on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). However, SB 920 creates unintended consequences to legitimate personal and commercial uses of UAV and creates criminal penalties through ambiguous criminal laws.

UAVs hold tremendous promise of hobbyists and businesses. From real estate to security, agriculture, architecture, engineering, and package delivery, UAVs can provide tremendous commercial benefits to consumers and businesses in both rural and urban areas.

However, passing SB 920 will significantly limits Michigan residents from exploring many of these opportunities and criminalizes otherwise innocent activities.

SB 920 will ground drones that are flown within a half-mile of "a telecommunications facility." This non-exclusive definition (a subset of "key facility") could be interpreted to include a cell tower. In essence, most Michigan residents will be unable to legally fly their drone in their own backyard if they live within a half-mile of a cell tower.

SB 920 will reduce the ability of:

- Realtors to use a UAV to take pictures of a townhouse
- Farmers from using a UAV to take monitor their crops
- News media and film makers to record

Moreover, SB 920 also lacks necessary exceptions for emergency safety situations where a UAV must enter an area within a half-mile of a key facility.

Fortunately, Michigan already has laws that already protect key facilities. Mich. Comp. Laws § 750.552c already makes it a crime for any person, or UAV, to trespass on Key Facility property.

Michigan has shown itself to be a leader in innovation for UAVs when, in 2016, it passed the "Unmanned aircraft systems act."

We ask that Michigan continue its leadership role by not grounding drones and not passing SB 920.

While we ask that you not adopt SB 920, we welcome the opportunity to work with you on reasonable regulations that allow all to prosper.

Sincerely,
Carl Szabo
Vice President and General Counsel, NetChoice
NetChoice is a trade association of e-Commerce and online businesses. www.netchoice.org