



February 14, 2025

To: Members of the Joint Transportation Committee
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97304

Subject: Support for HB 3479: Liability Insurance Requirement for Commercial Drone Operations

Dear Chairs McLain and Gorsek and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Drone Service Providers Alliance (DSPA) that represents the interests of over 30,000 small and medium sized drone businesses, we are writing to express our strong support for HB3479, which would require all commercial drone operations that take off or land in Oregon to maintain liability insurance that specifically covers aviation. This legislation represents an essential step forward in fostering a safer, more accountable, and innovative environment for drone operations in the state.

As an organization committed to promoting responsible drone operations, we believe this bill addresses several critical needs:

1. Enhancing Safety and Accountability

Requiring liability insurance ensures that commercial operators take responsibility for the potential risks associated with drone operations. By mandating aviation-specific coverage, Oregon can better protect its residents, businesses, and infrastructure from damages caused by negligent or unprepared operators.

2. Incentivizing Compliance with FAA Regulations

This requirement would serve as a practical incentive for non-compliant operators to obtain their FAA Part 107 certification. Since insurance providers typically require proof of FAA compliance before issuing coverage, this legislation acts as a backdoor mechanism to elevate operational standards and improve regulatory adherence across the state.

3. Reducing Costs Through Cost Sharing

Expanding the pool of insured operators has the potential to lower overall insurance costs. With more operators participating, risk is distributed more broadly, making coverage more affordable and accessible for smaller businesses and individual operators.

4. Funding New Technologies and Enhancing State Capabilities



Revenue generated from this requirement could be allocated toward advancements in aviation technology and innovation within the Oregon. For example, funds could support the development of drone detection systems, airspace management platforms, or public safety initiatives, further positioning Oregon as a leader in the rapidly evolving drone industry, as well as providing safety mitigations for drone operators to use for their FAA waivers and authorizations.

5. Encouraging Economic Growth and Public Confidence

A robust insurance mandate fosters consumer trust in drone services by providing an additional layer of assurance for clients and the public. Businesses operating in Oregon will benefit from increased confidence, leading to greater adoption of drone technology across industries such as agriculture, construction, public safety, and environmental monitoring.

6. Minimizing Legal and Financial Risk for the State

By ensuring all commercial operators have insurance, this bill reduces the likelihood of financial liabilities falling on the state or its residents in the event of an accident involving uninsured operators.

The Drone Service Providers Alliance is confident that this legislation aligns with Oregon's commitment to fostering innovation while ensuring public safety and fairness. We commend your leadership in addressing these vital issues and stand ready to assist with implementation efforts or further discussions.

Thank you for your dedication to creating a safer, more equitable environment for drone operations in Oregon. We respectfully urge you to support and pass HB3479.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vic Moss', written over a white background.

Vic Moss

Drone Service Providers Alliance

vic@dspalliance.org