

**March 23, 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 Law Enforcement Drone Association (LEDA), we strongly support HB 3479, which mandates aviation-specific liability insurance for commercial drone operations taking off or landing in Oregon. This legislation is a crucial step in advancing public safety, promoting technological innovation, and enabling critical drone operations throughout the state.

Aviation-specific liability insurance is essential for ensuring accountability and protecting Oregon's airspace. As drone operations continue to expand in public safety missions, such as search and rescue and traffic monitoring, it is vital that operators are adequately insured to cover potential risks. This measure will help ensure responsible operations and compliance with safety standards.

The legislation directly supports advanced drone operations by fostering the installation of essential ground-based sensors, including Remote ID sensors, ADS-B receivers, and weather monitoring systems. These sensors will enable real-time airspace awareness, enhancing situational awareness and enabling safe expansion of Drone as a First Responder (DFR) programs throughout Oregon. DFR programs can significantly reduce emergency response times, allowing law enforcement to assess incidents remotely and deploy resources more effectively.

Additionally, the bill supports the expansion of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations for wildfire detection and response. By enabling BVLOS capabilities, these ground-based sensors can help drones cover larger areas efficiently, providing critical aerial data to firefighters and improving coordination during suppression efforts. This advancement is vital for protecting Oregon's communities and natural resources from escalating wildfire threats.

Requiring liability insurance will also encourage greater FAA Part 107 compliance, as insurance providers typically require proof of certification. Broadening the insured risk pool

may lead to reduced insurance costs, making coverage more accessible for smaller public safety agencies and operators.

LEDA urges the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 3479 and set a national standard for safe and innovative drone operations. This legislation will strengthen public safety, promote technological advancement, and safeguard Oregon's environment and communities.

Thank you for your leadership. We are available to support further discussions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



**Kyle Williams**

Vice-President

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