



September 25, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Foxx and Administrator Huerta,

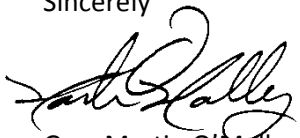
As you know, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Act and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012 enables the establishment of six test sites for the integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS). We write to you to convey our commitment for our three states to jointly support that goal as part of the test site infrastructure.

Our leading research and education institutions, which have been involved in cooperative unmanned system research for decades, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging their mutual support for each other regardless of who is awarded a test site designation. It is our firm belief that the mid-Atlantic region and our country will be well served by this type of collaborative approach. The establishment of our joint test site team presents an opportunity to provide better research and test capabilities, leading to an efficient integration effort, as well as combining strengths to support the economies of our region.


By combining the efforts of the University System of Maryland and the Rutgers University and Virginia Tech (the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership) teams as well as the highly capable affiliated partners at our federal, state and local facilities, the FAA will have access to exceptional capabilities. Our educational institutions have long supported numerous federal facilities in similar efforts, including working closely with the FAA Hughes Technical Center on integration issues. It is now an optimal time to focus that capability, collaboratively, on this current effort. That so many of our industry leading companies have pledged their support as well is testament to the import of a joint effort.

We look forward to our future work together with the FAA. Leadership in aviation is a hallmark of the United States, and we value being key members of the team going forward. We eagerly await the FAA decision on the test sites.

Sincerely


Gov. Martin O'Malley
State of Maryland


Gov. Chris Christie
State of New Jersey


Gov. Robert F. McDonnell
State of Virginia