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**House Committee On Judiciary
Support of HB 3047**

Chair Barker, Vice-chairs Olson and Williamson, and members of the committee:

My name is Jon Linthwaite, I'm a disabled veteran and the owner of a small UAS based aerial imaging company. I'm writing to you to express my support of HB 3047. The small UAS market is a very young and not yet established industry. As an aircraft operator, I encounter on a regular bases a great deal of misconceptions and hostility toward our industry. There is a fundamental lack of knowledge towards the industry in general. As such the industry, has been subjected to excessive scrutiny at times.

When Oregon passed ORS 837.365 it was a knee jerk reaction to what was mainly a hyped-up fear stemming from a YouTube video out of Georgia. However, the fear of that specific threat with sUAS currently far exceeds the operational capabilities and unnecessarily stifles innovation. As a military veteran, I understand many of people's concerns towards the weaponization of unmanned systems and feel that the same types of existing firearm regulations should be applicable such as noise nuisances, background checks, and safe manner of discharging, etc. But there should be a legal way for the technological development of these systems to take place as the pacific northwest is home to several specific UAS defense oriented companies. Whether we like it or not these technologies are and will be developed and such regulations only inhibit an Oregon based company's ability to compete and innovate. At the moment, China is significantly further ahead of the U.S. in the development of sUAS platforms and American manufactures and innovators currently are not able to successfully compete. So not only does Oregon lose out on potential jobs but also it degrades our state/nations security capabilities. Also, there are far more uses of these types of unmanned systems then just simply defense oriented fields.

Relaxing regulations on and allowing the research, development, and implementation of UAS's with the capability to project or deliver items exceeds just simple kinetic defense oriented missions though. In the future, we could see the development of UAS's that carry deployable lifesaving items. There are many possible technological advancements in this field if allowed. UASs in the future may be used in emergency situations to project floatation devices, ropes, ladders, etc to assist drowning victims or persons trapped in burning buildings. Imagine how many lives could have been saved on 9/11 if trapped victims could have been able to simply climb down just a few floors of the World Trade Center on a UAS deployed rope ladder to get below the fires and self-

evacuate through another window opened up by a UAS? In the field of arboriculture my company would like to develop a system for projecting ropes to assist tree climbers in their duties. There is already a design by one company in Washington to use UASs to plant trees which may have applications for foresters and timber harvesters alike. On paper, I have already lined out concepts which potentially involve projecting both lethal and non-lethal items to assist rural land owners for purposes of pest control and predation deterrence. I have envisioned a potential solution to Oregon's current dispute between ranchers, wolves and environmentalists concerning wolves and other wildlife predation on livestock which would use UASs that could detect and deploy non-lethal projectiles or countermeasures appeasing the end goals of all stake holders. These same systems could be used in wildlife research to aide in tagging and sampling threatened species. In addition, the home defense or facility security market along with law enforcement could utilize similar systems including Tasers to pacify subjects. There is a wide array of as yet undeveloped humane non-lethal innovation of UAS's that deploy projectile systems which are currently being prohibited in Oregon.

In conclusion, I encourage you to support HB 3047 and allow Oregon to embrace this new industry and ensure there is a safe and legal way for the development of these technologies. As the law currently exists we run the risk of losing out on the opportunity to develop and implement lifesaving technologies, reduce property loss, advance innovation, and wildlife research. Please support the advancement of HB 3047.

Sincerely,

Jon Linthwaite
President, Odin Aerial
FAA Certified SUAS Pilot & Certified Arborist/Horticulturist