



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Madam Chair, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am State Representative Bobby Levy and I represent House District 58, which includes the City of Pendleton known for the world-famous Pendleton Round-up, but less known as the fastest growing unmanned aircraft system (UAS) flight test range in north America.

What does that mean to Pendleton and Oregon? The unmanned aircraft systems business is expected to grow into a hundred of billions of dollar industry over the next twenty years, and Pendleton is positioned to be part of that economic growth. We see not only new technical jobs associated with the industry, but financial stability and expansion of our locally owned and operated businesses, including lodging, restaurants, retail and many other service-oriented businesses.

Hence the need for Senate Bill 315, which came to your committee from the Senate by a vote of 26 to 1. The bill is very narrow in scope and relates only to businesses that own or operate unmanned aerial system test ranges and need to execute nondisclosure agreements with their clients if disclosure of information would cause a competitive disadvantage to the test range or clients of the range.

Many of the national companies currently utilizing the 14,000 square mile FAA approved Pendleton air space test range are demanding NDA's to protect the costly research and development associated with their projects that include crop dusting, firefighting, personal air transportation and helicopters to name a few.

You heard from our City Manager and the Economic Development Director of our city owned airport as to the importance of this bill to ensure we can meet the needs of existing and future clients and remain competitive in this innovative and rapidly growing industry.

I appreciate your consideration of Senate Bill 315 and urge you to pass it not only for the continued economic growth of Pendleton but Oregon as well.

Thank you for your consideration.
Representative Bobby Levy, HD58