



**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

421 Aviation Way • Frederick, MD 21701-4798  
Telephone (301) 695-2000 • FAX (301) 695-2375  
www.aopa.org

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Rick Jones  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
Michigan Senate  
915 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Michigan Senate Bill 487 - Regulating Drone Use Near Correctional Facilities

Dear Chairman Jones:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), a not-for-profit membership organization, is the world's largest aviation organization, representing the interests of general aviation aircraft owners and operators – including over 12,000 in Michigan. On behalf of our members, we write to you regarding Senate Bill 487 which may regulate airspace use near the correctional facilities.

While AOPA's membership is composed primarily of owners and pilots of conventional manned general aviation aircraft and not directly impacted by the provisions of Senate Bill 487, our members believe it is important to remind the Legislature that current federal law preempts any state law impacting the National Airspace System (NAS). Specifically, 49 USC 40103 provides that *"the Regulation of the National Airspace System is the responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and as such, the FAA holds the regulatory authority to control the use of navigable airspace and regulate civil and military operations in that airspace in the interest of the safety and efficiency of the public."*

We certainly understand the intent of Senate Bill 487 and the need to ensure the security of Michigan's correctional facilities. However, we believe any decisions regarding the use of the NAS should be made solely by the FAA in consultation with both the Michigan Legislature and Michigan Department of Transportation. We would gladly be a resource to you and your staff through this process should you require it.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. As you consider the future of unmanned aerial systems in Michigan, please view AOPA and its expertise as a resource for you and your staff. Should any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-695-2095 or [bryan.budds@aopa.org](mailto:bryan.budds@aopa.org).

Very truly yours,

Bryan Budds  
Great Lakes Regional Manager

cc: Michigan Senate Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Rick Jones  
Michigan Department of Transportation – Office of Aeronautics