

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To provide for the carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 2658**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2106 through 2017, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. HELLER and Ms. Cantwell

Viz:

- 1 At the end of part II of subtitle A of title II, add
- 2 the following:
- 3 **SEC. 2040A. CARRIAGE OF PROPERTY BY SMALL UN-**
- 4 **MANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FOR COM-**
- 5 **PENSATION OR HIRE.**
- 6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448, as amended by sec-
- 7 tion 2136 of this Act, is further amended by adding after
- 8 section 44811 the following:

1 **“§ 44812. Carriage of property by small unmanned**  
2 **aircraft systems for compensation or hire**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
4 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of  
5 Transportation shall issue a final rule authorizing the car-  
6 riage of property by operators of small unmanned aircraft  
7 systems for compensation or hire within the United  
8 States.

9 “(b) CONTENTS.—The final rule required under sub-  
10 section (a) shall provide for the following:

11 “(1) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATE.—  
12 The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
13 tration, at the direction of the Secretary, shall estab-  
14 lish a certificate (to be known as a ‘small UAS air  
15 carrier certificate’) for persons that undertake di-  
16 rectly, by lease, or other arrangement the operation  
17 of small unmanned aircraft systems to carry prop-  
18 erty in air transportation, including commercial fleet  
19 operations with highly automated unmanned aircraft  
20 systems. The requirements to operate under a small  
21 UAS air carrier certificate shall—

22 “(A) consider the unique characteristics of  
23 highly automated, small unmanned aircraft sys-  
24 tems; and

1           “(B) include requirements for the safe op-  
2           eration of small unmanned aircraft systems  
3           that, at a minimum, address—

4                   “(i) airworthiness of small unmanned  
5                   aircraft systems;

6                   “(ii) qualifications for operators and  
7                   the type and nature of the operations; and

8                   “(iii) operating specifications gov-  
9                   erning the type and nature of the un-  
10                  manned aircraft system air carrier oper-  
11                  ations.

12           “(2) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION  
13           PROCESS.—The Administrator, at the direction of  
14           the Secretary, shall establish a process for the  
15           issuance of small UAS air carrier certificates estab-  
16           lished pursuant to paragraph (1) that is perform-  
17           ance-based and ensures required safety levels are  
18           met. Such certification process shall consider—

19                   “(A) safety risks and the mitigation of  
20                   those risks associated with the operation of  
21                   highly automated, small unmanned aircraft  
22                   around other manned and unmanned aircraft,  
23                   and over persons and property on the ground;

24                   “(B) the competencies and compliance pro-  
25                   grams of manufacturers, operators, and compa-

1           nies that manufacture, operate, or both small  
2           unmanned aircraft systems and components;  
3           and

4                   “(C) compliance with the requirements es-  
5           tablished pursuant to paragraph (1).

6           “(3) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CLASSIFICA-  
7           TION.—The Secretary shall develop a classification  
8           system for persons issued small UAS air carrier cer-  
9           tificates pursuant to this subsection to establish eco-  
10          nomic authority for the carriage of property by small  
11          unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire.  
12          Such classification shall only require—

13                   “(A) registration with the Department of  
14           Transportation; and

15                   “(B) a valid small UAS air carrier certifi-  
16           cate issued pursuant to this subsection.”.

17          (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for  
18          chapter 448, as amended by section 2136 of this Act, is  
19          further amended by adding after the item relating to sec-  
20          tion 44811 the following:

          “44812. Carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensa-  
          tion or hire.”.