

ROSEN - 2 as modified

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish in the Department of Transportation a drone infrastructure inspection grant program and a drone education and training grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1939

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, 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 Ms. ROSEN

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:
2 **SEC. ____ . DRONE INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTION**
3 **GRANTS.**

4 (a) DRONE INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTION GRANT
5 PROGRAM.—

6 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall establish
7 a drone infrastructure inspection grant program to
8 make grants to governmental entities to facilitate
9 the use of eligible small unmanned aircraft systems
10 to increase efficiency, reduce costs, improve worker

1 and community safety, reduce carbon emissions, or
2 meet other priorities (as determined by the Sec-
3 retary) related to critical infrastructure projects.

4 (2) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—A governmental
5 entity may use a grant provided under this sub-
6 section to—

7 (A) purchase or lease eligible small un-
8 manned aircraft systems;

9 (B) support operational capabilities of eli-
10 gible small unmanned aircraft systems by the
11 governmental entity;

12 (C) contract for services performed with an
13 eligible small unmanned aircraft system in cir-
14 cumstances in which the governmental entity
15 does not have the resources or expertise to safe-
16 ly carry out or assist in carrying out the activi-
17 ties described under paragraph (1); and

18 (D) support the program management ca-
19 pability of the governmental entity to use an el-
20 igible small unmanned aircraft system.

21 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
22 grant under this subsection, a governmental entity
23 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
24 time, in such form, and containing such information
25 as the Secretary may require, including an assur-

1 ance that the governmental entity or its contractor
2 will comply with relevant Federal regulations.

3 (4) SELECTION OF APPLICANTS.—In selecting
4 an applicant for a grant under this subsection, the
5 Secretary shall prioritize projects that propose to—

6 (A) carry out a critical infrastructure
7 project in a historically disadvantaged commu-
8 nity; or

9 (B) address a safety risk in the inspection,
10 operation, maintenance, repair, modernization,
11 or construction of an element of critical infra-
12 structure.

13 (5) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection
14 shall be construed as to interfere with an agreement
15 between a governmental entity and a labor union.

16 (6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
17 year after the first grant is provided under this sub-
18 section, the Secretary shall submit to the appro-
19 priate committees of Congress a report that evalu-
20 ates the program carried out under this subsection,
21 including—

22 (A) a description of the number of grants
23 awarded;

24 (B) the amount of each grant;

1 (C) the activities funded under this sec-
2 tion; and

3 (D) the effectiveness of such funded activi-
4 ties in meeting the objectives described in para-
5 graph (1).

6 (7) FUNDING.—

7 (A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
8 of the cost of a project carried out using a
9 grant under this subsection shall not be less
10 than 80 percent of the total project cost.

11 (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
12 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
13 priated to carry out this subsection—

14 (i) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

15 and

16 (ii) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal
17 years 2025 through 2028.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term
20 “covered foreign entity” means an entity—

21 (A) included on the Consolidated Screening
22 List or Entity List as designated by the Sec-
23 retary of Commerce;

24 (B) domiciled in the People’s Republic of
25 China or the Russian Federation;

1 (C) subject to influence or control by the
2 government of the People's Republic of China
3 or by the Russian Federation; or

4 (D) is a subsidiary or affiliate of an entity
5 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

6 (2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
7 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given such
8 term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastruc-
9 tures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

10 (3) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.—
11 The term “critical infrastructure project” means a
12 project for the inspection, operation, maintenance,
13 repair, modernization, or construction of an element
14 of critical infrastructure, including mitigating envi-
15 ronmental hazards to such infrastructure.

16 (4) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
17 “educational institution” means an institution of
18 higher education (as defined in section 101 of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))
20 that participates in a program authorized under sec-
21 tions 631 and 632 of the FAA Reauthorization Act
22 of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

23 (5) ELEMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUC-
24 TURE.—The term “element of critical infrastruc-
25 ture” means a critical infrastructure facility or

1 asset, including public bridges, tunnels, roads, high-
2 ways, dams, electric grid, water infrastructure, com-
3 munication systems, pipelines, or other related facili-
4 ties or assets, as defined by the Secretary.

5 (6) ELIGIBLE SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
6 SYSTEM.—The term “eligible small unmanned air-
7 craft system” means a small unmanned aircraft sys-
8 tem manufactured or assembled by a company that
9 is domiciled in the United States and is not a cov-
10 ered foreign entity.

11 (7) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term “gov-
12 ernmental entity” means—

13 (A) a State, the District of Columbia, the
14 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory of
15 the United States, or a political subdivision
16 thereof;

17 (B) a unit of local government;

18 (C) a Tribal Government;

19 (D) a metropolitan planning organization;

20 or

21 (E) a combination of the entities described
22 in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

23 (8) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED
24 AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The
25 terms “small unmanned aircraft”, “unmanned air-

1 craft”, and “unmanned aircraft system” have the
2 meanings given such terms in section 44801 of title
3 49, United States Code.