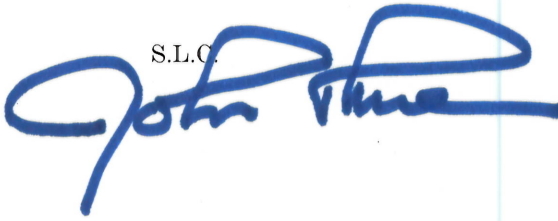


Thune-2 (modified)

S.L.C.


AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve the bill.

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

S. _____

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 Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PETERS)

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:
2

3 **SEC. ____ . ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF UAS INTEGRATION.**
4

5 Section 106 of title 49, United States Code, as
6 amended by section 801, is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new subsection:

8 “(v) OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF
9 UAS INTEGRATION.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
11 the Federal Aviation Administration the Office of

1 Associate Administrator of UAS Integration (in this
2 subsection referred to as the ‘Office’).

3 “(2) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office
4 shall be headed by an Associate Administrator, who
5 shall—

6 “(A) be appointed by the Administrator, in
7 consultation with the Secretary of Transpor-
8 tation; and

9 “(B) report directly to the Administrator.

10 “(3) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office
11 are to—

12 “(A) ensure and oversee the safe integra-
13 tion of UASs into the national airspace system;

14 “(B) encourage and facilitate a commer-
15 cially viable UAS industry and the leadership of
16 the United States in UAS;

17 “(C) increase overall safety of the trans-
18 portation system on a mode-neutral basis;

19 “(D) promote the global leadership of the
20 United States in advanced aviation;

21 “(E) manage the UAS Integration Office;
22 and

23 “(F) ensure the safe coexistence of UASs
24 with manned aircraft operating in the national
25 airspace system.

1 “(4) DUTIES.—The Associate Administrator
2 shall—

3 “(A) conduct rulemaking proceedings with
4 respect to UASs;

5 “(B) review submissions under the processes established in subparagraphs (C) through
6 (E) of section 44811(c)(2) and, as appropriate,
7 grant certifications and other operational approvals;
8
9

10 “(C) review, modify, accept, or approve industry-developed standards, means of compliance,
11 and declarations of compliance;
12

13 “(D) consult and coordinate with subject matter experts from all relevant lines of business
14 and staff offices in carrying out the duties described in this paragraph in a timely and efficient
15 manner;
16
17

18 “(E) hire full time equivalent employees, as appropriate, to build expertise within the Office
19 in assessing new technologies and novel risk mitigations; and
20
21

22 “(F) engage in any other activities deemed necessary by the Associate Administrator to
23 carry out the purposes described in paragraph
24 (3).
25

1 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

2 “(A) BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT;
3 BVLOS.—The terms ‘beyond visual line of sight’
4 or ‘BVLOS’ mean the operation of a UAS be-
5 yond the capability of the flightcrew members
6 to see the UAS with vision unaided by any de-
7 vice other than corrective lenses (such as spec-
8 tacles or contact lenses).

9 “(B) UAS.—The term ‘UAS’ has the
10 meaning given the term ‘unmanned aircraft sys-
11 tem’ in section 44801.”.

12 **SEC. ____ . USE OF MODELING AND SIMULATION TOOLS IN**
13 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TEST RANGES; PRO-**
14 **GRAM EXTENSION.**

15 Section 44803(c) of title 49, United States Code, as
16 amended by section 813, is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
18 the end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(8) use modeling and simulation tools to assist
22 in the testing, evaluation, verification, and validation
23 of unmanned aircraft systems.”.