

1 HR381  
2 152566-1  
3 By Representative Williams (P)  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 30-APR-13

1 152566-1:n:04/23/2013:MCS/mfc LRS2013-2089

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8 ENCOURAGING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF  
9 ALABAMA AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORITY TO SELECT  
10 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, FOR AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM TEST  
11 SITE.

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13 WHEREAS, a primary mission of the Federal Aviation  
14 Administration (FAA) is to ensure the safety and efficiency of  
15 the national aviation system, including manned and unmanned  
16 aircraft; and

17 WHEREAS, for more than a half century, the FAA has a  
18 proven track record of safely integrating technology and  
19 aircraft into the National Airspace System (NAS); and

20 WHEREAS, Congress has directed the FAA to take the  
21 initiative to help introduce unmanned aircraft systems into  
22 the NAS during the next five years, including providing six  
23 test sites to address research and development and operational  
24 issues; and

25 WHEREAS, as part of this integration, unmanned  
26 flight standards and regulations need to be developed and  
27 validated, including standards for the platform, operators,

1 and flight operations, with a safety goal equivalent to that  
2 of manned flight; and

3 WHEREAS, the greater Huntsville, Alabama, area has  
4 long been a national leader in the development and integration  
5 of technology-based systems and is uniquely positioned and  
6 developed to be a productive location to establish a  
7 headquarters site for an FAA unmanned aircraft test site; and

8 WHEREAS, Huntsville offers extraordinary assets from  
9 academia, corporate and government partners with experience in  
10 the NAS environment, ongoing research and development funding,  
11 and an unrestricted national airspace structure as part of its  
12 proposal that would be applied effectively to safely advance  
13 domestic NAS activities; and

14 WHEREAS, The University of Alabama in Huntsville is  
15 among a small number of universities in the United States that  
16 conduct focused research into unmanned aerial systems and also  
17 offers an academic concentration in rotorcraft systems  
18 engineering, offering a combination of an advanced degree as  
19 well as research to provide opportunities to create a highly  
20 qualified workforce to support such a test site; and

21 WHEREAS, Huntsville is also the location of  
22 important federal government resources at Redstone Arsenal to  
23 support this proposed activity, including the U.S. Army  
24 Program Management for Small Unmanned Aerial Systems, the  
25 Program Executive Officer for Aviation, and the U.S. Army  
26 Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering  
27 Center; and

1                   WHEREAS, there are more than 200 companies in the  
2 greater Huntsville area that possess unmanned aircraft systems  
3 expertise ranging from platforms to sensors, training and  
4 operations, test and evaluation, and simulators and the  
5 integration of flight assets; now therefore,

6                   BE IT RESOLVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Huntsville, Alabama, would be an  
8 advantageous choice for an unmanned aircraft system test site  
9 for the FAA, and this legislative body encourages a  
10 partnership between the FAA and the State of Alabama for the  
11 selection of the Huntsville area as a location for an FAA test  
12 site.