



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0523**

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Secretary Foxx and Administrator Huerta:

I am writing in support of the Indian Wells Valley (IWV) Inyokern Airport, located in Inyokern, California, to be selected as a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) test site for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). This region of California has long been an innovator for new aerospace technologies that have greatly benefited our nation throughout much of its aviation history. Locating a UAS test site at IWV Inyokern Airport will continue this legacy for California and the country.

The IWV Inyokern Airport is a great candidate for a test site because it is located in the high desert of southern California where privacy will be less of a concern due to low encroachment, and it is within a 75-mile radius of a majority of the country's unmanned systems work. The airspace complex IWV Inyokern Airport operates in one of the largest areas of restricted airspace in the country and the region's weather allows for almost year-round days for flight testing in diverse geography. IWV Inyokern Airport has facilitated UAS operations and already possesses most of the infrastructure required to host a FAA test site should it be selected.

There is also a heavy academic presence near IWV Inyokern Airport. Many colleges have Educational Partnering Agreements with the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and are involved with UAS test and development at this military installation. There are many other academic institutions in California that do research on UAS integration and technology, such as the University of California at San Diego and Berkeley and the University of Southern California, which could be leveraged for testing if Inyokern is selected as an UAS test site.

I ask that you consider the benefits of selecting IWV Inyokern Airport as one of six FAA UAS test sites since much of the infrastructure is already in place, it has the airspace, and UAS research test and development is ongoing in the region. IWV Inyokern Airport would be a great asset to the FAA in their plan to implement UAS into National Airspace and would build upon the expertise of the people already located in the community.

Given the importance of this issue in the communities I represent and California, I would like to set up a meeting with you to discuss the benefits of selecting the IWV Inyokern Airport as a FAA UAS test site. I look forward to our meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and the last name "McCarthy" clearly distinguishable.

KEVIN McCARTHY  
Member of Congress