



CT Municipal UAV Task Force

Senate Bill 3 Will Make Our State Less Safe and Waste Hundreds of Thousands of Taxpayer Dollars!

The Connecticut State Senate is currently considering S.B. 3 which includes at Section 4, a ban on the purchase and use of certain foreign-made drones by all state and local agencies and requires such agencies to stop using existing foreign-made drones. **If this bill passes, it will make our state less safe and waste taxpayer money!**

As of December 31, 2023, there were 790,918 registered drones in this country. Unregistered numbers are likely far greater. **Under S.B. 3, the very same drones that can be legally flown by any of these hundreds of thousands of users, *including children*, would be taken out of the hands of first responders – the only people using them specifically to keep us safe!**

If S.B. 3's Drone Ban becomes law ...

Our **FIREFIGHTERS** may not be able to:

- “See” through the smoke to realize their hose lines aren’t directly hitting the fire engulfing your home
- “See” the increasing temperature of your home before it ignites from an adjacent structure fire
- Identify and lead firefighters to hot-spots during a brush fire to prevent spreading and reignition

Upon receiving 911 calls, our **POLICE OFFICERS** may not be able to:

- Reach your child’s school through heavy traffic in time to pursue a suspicious person
- Know the location of an active shooter inside a structure in your neighborhood
- Quickly de-escalate a situation by having real-time video showing a suspicious person is not armed

Our **HAZ MAT TEAMS** may not be able to:

- Get close enough to a spill to recognize that toxic vapors are heading towards your community
- Know whether it is safe for firefighters to extinguish a chemical fire near your home
- Share real-time data allowing first-responders and citizens to quickly develop evacuation plans

Our **SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS** may not be able to:

- Find the heat signature of your missing child or elderly parent on a frigid winter night
- Find a path through the destruction after a hurricane, tornado or other natural disaster to rescue your family
- Deliver first-aid kits, water, two-way radios and signaling devices to people lost or stranded in the wild or other victims in emergency situations

Why would S.B. 3 waste taxpayer money?

- First responders carefully select and train with the drones best suited for a particular job. They select the most cost-effective options available, wisely allocating taxpayer funds.
- American-made drones are significantly more expensive than the drones that S.B. 3 would ban.
- Agencies across the State have collectively expended hundreds of thousands of dollars on existing drone fleets consisting primarily of drones that S.B. 3 would ban. These fleets would be grounded and that significant investment lost.
- For many operations, multiple American-made drones would be required to achieve the capabilities of just one of the drones that S.B. 3 would ban.
- S.B. 3 will force state and local agencies to pay high prices for drones with capabilities they don't need but lacking functions that are critical.

Can't our first responders just switch to American-made alternatives? No.

- For many purposes, American-made alternatives do not exist at any price.
- American companies lack the manufacturing capability to serve the public safety market.
- Because the drones that S.B. 3 would ban have a proven track record, they can be relied upon in high-stakes situations where lives of the public or first responders are threatened.
- The drones that S.B. 3 would ban can quickly and cost-effectively be replaced, allowing them to be deployed in dangerous situations rather than risking the life of a first responder.
- Many American-made drones cannot be quickly replaced due to supply and manufacturing limitations and legal restrictions that do not apply to banned drones.
- If first responders are limited to American-made drones, new programs won't start up and existing programs will be stopped dead in their tracks, **jeopardizing the safety of every one of us.**

Can cybersecurity concerns be mitigated? Yes.

- The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has issued "Best Practices for Operating Commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems" (the "CISA Bulletin") which can be implemented as necessary and appropriate.
- Most public safety drone flights occur in areas fully visible on Google Maps. Flights in sensitive areas can be conducted with precautions such as those in the CISA Bulletin.
- Public safety personnel are trained on cybersecurity policies and procedures, tactics and techniques to securely navigate drones in the National Air Space.
- Some of the drones S.B. 3 would ban have the option of being used entirely off-line, with no internet connection required, reducing the possibility of data leakage.

Tell your legislators that the known and immediate ability of drones to save lives TODAY far outweighs the speculative future harm posed by the drones that S.B. 3 would ban.

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