



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA, INC.
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Vans Stevenson
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March 1, 2016

The Honorable Ralph Ostmeyer
Chairman, Committee on Federal and State Affairs
State Capitol
300 SW 10th
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: S.B. 462 - Neutral

The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) takes a neutral position on Senate Bill 462, which regulates the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) over private property. MPAA's member companies¹ are the leading producers and distributors of motion pictures and other audiovisual works for all media platforms, including motion picture theaters, digital and video home entertainment, cable, satellite and broadcast television, as well as on the Internet. MPAA member company affiliates also produce news, entertainment news, and sports programming.

Beginning in 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began approving exemptions to the federal prohibition on the use of UAS for commercial purposes. Among the first exemptions granted were those for closed-set filming. These exemptions provide for nearly 30 safety and operational limitations, including:

- Permission of the property owner is required.
- Flights must be operated at an altitude of no more than 400 feet above ground level.
- UAS must weigh less than 55 pounds, including camera.

¹ The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. includes: The Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal Studios LLC; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

- UAS must be operated within visual line of sight at all times.
- Pilot in Command must possess at least a private pilot certificate and at least a current third-class medical certificate.
- UAS may not be operated directly over any person, except authorized and consenting production personnel.
- UAS may not be operated by the PIC from any moving device or vehicle.

S.B. 462 provides that the act “shall not be construed to impair or limit any lawful activities of ... private entities that may have the right to enter land by operating an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system within the airspace overlaying the real property of another.” We understand this to mean that an FAA-authorized operator flying a UAS as part motion picture production would not be subject to this new law.

For this reason, MPAA remains neutral on S.B. 462. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me or our legislative representative in Topeka, Ron Hein, at (785) 273-1441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vero Stevenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "V".