

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Chao,

As the third largest federally-recognized Native American tribe with nearly 200,000 enrolled members, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) is a fundamental part of Oklahoma's economy, culture, and our cherished way of life. The CNO continues to drive Oklahoma's economy in positive ways that improves the quality of life for many across the State.

For the past eighteen months, the CNO has been working to develop a vision and plan to foster the growth of technology innovation and industry in Oklahoma, and the tribe has focused in particular on areas such as drones and urban air mobility. Based on the tribe's unique land and business holdings along with fast-growing industry relationships, the CNO is ideally-positioned to be an important partner to those industries in the years ahead. With their continued investment in Oklahoma, the CNO continues to lead the way for developing new opportunities for our region.

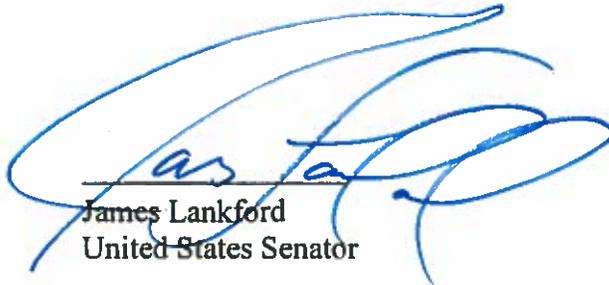
We strongly support the CNO's proposal for a Federal Aviation Administration UAS Integration Pilot Program designation. We have closely followed the CNO's proposal strategy and development plans, and it is clear that the CNO has a strong proposal and business case for this designation. CNO is in a unique position to support the Department of Transportation and the FAA in moving drone technology and safe integration into the national airspace system forward. The tribe has the resources, leadership, and foundations to help address the important policy issues that are at the core of the UAS IPP.

We urge you to give full consideration to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's UAS IPP proposal to participate in this program of national importance.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress