

May 2, 2016

Louisiana Senate Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development Committee
Louisiana State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Via email

RE: NAMIC opposition to HB 335

Members of the Senate Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, & Rural Development Committee:

The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) appreciates the opportunity to register its comments regarding HB 335.

NAMIC is the largest property/casualty insurance trade association in the country, with more than 1,400 member companies. NAMIC supports regional and local mutual insurance companies on main streets across America and many of the country's largest national insurers. NAMIC members represent 40 percent of the total property/casualty insurance market, serve more than 170 million policyholders, and write nearly \$225 billion in annual premiums. In Louisiana, 128 member companies do business here, comprising a market share of 40%.

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) technology is a popular topic for legislation across the country. Many states are considering bills that would regulate the use of UAS. We would point out that the industry expects the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will issue comprehensive regulations on UAS before the end of the year. Such regulations will preempt state regulation of this technology.

In addition, these federal regulations may very well preempt portions of Chapter 1-A, **Unmanned Aerial Systems**. Adding a registration system and fee into this chapter will run counter to the FAA registration system. The FAA system is designed to avoid states and municipalities from adding their own registration requirements and fees.

NAMIC has been supportive of language carving out exceptions for entities that have received authorization from the FAA to use UAS technology. Generally, this language has taken a form close to the following:

This section does not apply to a business entity doing business lawfully in this state, using unmanned aerial systems for legitimate business purposes, and

operating the unmanned aerial system in a manner consistent with applicable FAA rules, licenses or exemptions.

Alternatively, we urge the Legislature to wait on any UAS legislation until the FAA has issued its regulations. UAS safety would not be compromised by refraining to advance this registration bill.

Please contact me if you have questions or comments about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "M".

Paul Martin
Director – State Affairs
Southwest Region

CC: Rep. Clay Schexnayder