AMENDMENT NO.______ Calendar No.______

Purpose: To provide for the carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 2658

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2106 through 2017, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on ________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. Heller

Viz:

1 At the end of part II of subtitle A of title II, add the following:

3 SEC. 2040A. CARRIAGE OF PROPERTY BY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FOR COMPENSATION OR HIRE.

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448, as amended by section 2136 of this Act, is further amended by adding after section 44811 the following:
§ 44812. Carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule authorizing the carriage of property by operators of small unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire within the United States.

(b) CONTENTS.—The final rule required under subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

(1) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATE.—

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, at the direction of the Secretary, shall establish a certificate (to be known as a ‘small UAS air carrier certificate’) for persons that undertake directly, by lease, or other arrangement the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems to carry property in air transportation, including commercial fleet operations with highly automated unmanned aircraft systems. The requirements to operate under a small UAS air carrier certificate shall—

(A) consider the unique characteristics of highly automated, small unmanned aircraft systems; and
“(B) include requirements for the safe operation of small unmanned aircraft systems that, at a minimum, address—

“(i) airworthiness of small unmanned aircraft systems;

“(ii) qualifications for operators and the type and nature of the operations; and

“(iii) operating specifications governing the type and nature of the unmanned aircraft system air carrier operations.

“(2) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Administrator, at the direction of the Secretary, shall establish a process for the issuance of small UAS air carrier certificates established pursuant to paragraph (1) that is performance-based and ensures required safety levels are met. Such certification process shall consider—

“(A) safety risks and the mitigation of those risks associated with the operation of highly automated, small unmanned aircraft around other manned and unmanned aircraft, and over persons and property on the ground;

“(B) the competencies and compliance programs of manufacturers, operators, and compa-
nies that manufacture, operate, or both small
unmanned aircraft systems and components;
and

"(C) compliance with the requirements es-
tablished pursuant to paragraph (1).

"(3) SMALL UAS AIR CARRIER CLASSIFICA-
TION.—The Secretary shall develop a classification
system for persons issued small UAS air carrier cer-
tificates pursuant to this subsection to establish eco-

nomic authority for the carriage of property by small
unmanned aircraft systems for compensation or hire.

Such classification shall only require—

"(A) registration with the Department of
Transportation; and

"(B) a valid small UAS air carrier certifi-
cate issued pursuant to this subsection.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for
chapter 448, as amended by section 2136 of this Act, is
further amended by adding after the item relating to sec-
tion 44811 the following:

"44812. Carriage of property by small unmanned aircraft systems for compensa-
tion or hire.".