AMENDMENT NO._________ Calendar No.____

Purpose: To modify the provision relating to the use of unmanned aircraft systems at institutions of higher education.

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 2016 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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MORAN)

Viz:

1 Strike section 2145 and insert the following:

2 SEC. 2145. USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

3

4 (a) In General.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish procedures and standards, as applicable, to streamline the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems by institutions of higher education, including faculty, students, and staff.
(b) **STANDARDS.**—The standards required under subsection (a) shall outline risk-based operational parameters to ensure the safety of the national airspace system and the uninvolved public that facilitates the use of unmanned aircraft systems for educational or research purposes.

(c) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM APPROVAL.**—The procedures required under subsection (a) shall allow unmanned aircraft systems operated under this section to be modified for research purposes without iterative approval from the Administrator.

(d) **ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.**—The Administrator shall establish a procedure to provide for streamlined, risk-based operational approval for unmanned aircraft systems operated by institutions of higher education, including faculty, students, and staff, outside of the parameters or purposes set forth in subsection (b).

(e) **DEADLINES.**—

   (1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, by the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator has not set forth standards and procedures required under subsections (a), (b), and (c), an institution of higher education may—

   (A) without specific approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, operate small unmanned aircraft at model aircraft fields ap-
proved by the Academy of Model Aeronautics
and with the permission of the local club of the
Academy of Model Aeronautics; and

(B) submit to the Federal Aviation Admin-
istration applications for approval of the insti-
tution's designation of one or more outdoor
flight fields.

(2) CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE TO APPROVE.—
If the Administrator does not take action with re-
spect to an application submitted under paragraph
(1)(B) within 30 days of the submission of the appli-
cation, the failure to do so shall be treated as ap-
proval of the application.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
term "institution of higher education" has the
meaning given that term by section 101(a) of the
Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term
"unmanned aircraft system" has the meaning given
the term in section 44801 of title 49, United States
Code, as added by section 2121 of this Act.

(3) EDUCATIONAL OR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—
The term "educational or research purposes", with
respect to the operation of an unmanned aircraft
system by an institution of higher education, includes—

(A) instruction of students at the institution;

(B) academic or research related use of unmanned aircraft systems by student organizations recognized by the institution, if such use has been approved by the institution;

(C) activities undertaken by the institution as part of research projects, including research projects sponsored by the Federal Government;

and

(D) other academic activities at the institution, including general research, engineering, and robotics.