



May 16, 2016

Governor Mary Fallin
State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

RE: HB2599 – Act Relating to Unmanned Aircraft

Dear Governor Fallin,

GPA Midstream Association respectfully requests that you sign House Bill 2599 by Representative Wood and Senator Sharp. House Bill 2599 is necessary to prevent undue interference of operations at restricted oil and gas facilities and other sites listed in the bill, due to safety and security concerns. It would also ensure that our members, who are owners and operators of oil and gas facilities classified as “critical infrastructure,” could utilize unmanned aircraft for safety and maintenance needs. In addition, the bill provides an exemption for law enforcement and simply requires other operators of unmanned aircraft to seek permission from critical infrastructure facilities prior to flying unmanned aircraft under 400 feet over the restricted areas of such facilities.

Founded in 1921, the GPA Midstream Association is a trade organization with nearly 100 corporate members of all sizes engaged in the gathering and processing of natural gas, commonly referred to as “midstream activities” in the energy sector. Raw natural gas is one of the world’s primary energy sources and much of it must be purified, or “processed,” to meet quality standards and regulations and to make useful everyday products for homes, factories, and businesses. Gas processing includes the removal of impurities from the raw natural gas stream produced at the wellhead, as well as the extraction for sale of natural gas liquid products (NGLs) such as ethane, propane, butane and natural gasoline. GPA Midstream members account for more than 90 percent of NGLs produced in the United States from natural gas processing. GPA Midstream members also operate domestic gas gathering pipelines, in addition to pipelines involved with storing, transporting, and marketing natural gas and NGLs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information about the importance of HB2599 to the safety of our members operations in the state of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

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