



**AMA District I Reference Doc.  
020851**

**TYPE:** Restricted Flying of UAS  
or drones near airports.

**AGENCY:** Representatives, N.H

**ISSUES:** No government or person  
may operate a drone below 400 ft.  
within 5 miles of any airports in  
N.H.

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President

Gary Fitch  
Executive Vice President

Keith Sessions  
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Chuck Bower  
District XI V.P.  
AK, ID, MT, OR, WA

February 8, 2015

Re: Opposition to HB602

Dear Representative

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is a national membership organization of more than 175,000 model aviation enthusiasts. By way of introduction, my name is Andrew Argenio. I am an AMA district vice president and have had the honor of serving the New England AMA aeromodeling community for over a decade.

I write today to support my fellow aeromodelers from the great state of New Hampshire who have expressed their opposition to HB602 section 644-A:4 Airport Prohibition stating "No government or person shall operate a drone at an altitude below 400 feet within 5 miles of any airport in this state."

Of the 29 AMA-flying sites in New Hampshire, nine are within a 5 mile radius of airports and have been for a number of years. There haven't been any reports of incidents involving AMA members flying model aircraft in proximity to full scale airplane traffic so as to endanger or cause harm to people or property. AMA clubs have 2,480 flying sites with 379 located within 5 miles of an airport. They enjoy this privilege because the clubs and their members are recognized as worthwhile tenants providing a watchful eye, protecting and maintaining the site areas they occupy.

Airport managers and security personal have informed us on many occasions that the presence of AMA clubs in the vicinity of their airports deters those that would operate model aircraft carelessly or unlawfully. Having the benefit of many AMA clubs and members, where persons of all ages new to the hobby can go to learn how to fly a model aircraft responsibly, safely and harmoniously with others has proven to be the best method to maintain a safe and secure facility.

Excluding and preventing responsible safe AMA flying at any locations is counterproductive to furthering the safe integration of sUAS into the NAS. AMA's answer to safety has always been educate before you regulate. For 2015 the AMA along with other partners have launched what will be a massive program to educate enthusiasts on how to be safe pilots. You may check this important educational initiative out at [www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org)

The AMA in a collaborative effort with the FAA since 2008, continues to evolve its safety standards to accommodate the challenges of an exponentially advancing aerotechnologies to meet or exceed FAA requirements for safe integration of sUAS into National Airspace. As a result of 79 years of an impeccable safety record, model aviation regulations for a recognized, community-based organization were exempted from FAA regulations. This exemption was signed into law by the President on February 14, 2012, as Public Law 112-95 section 336 (c).

We urge you as legislators to amend HB602 and to allow the New Hampshire AMA clubs to operate as Congress provided and intended in P.L. 112-95 section 336 (a) (5) *“when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator provides the airport operator and air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually-agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower.”*

Thank you for considering an amendment to HB602.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrew Argenio*

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