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December 12, 2024

Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Honorable Michael G. Whitaker
FAA Administrator
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Honorable Christopher A. Wray
FBI Director
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Mayorkas, Administrator Whitaker, and Director Wray,

I write to you to express my concern over the widespread reports of unidentified drone activity in the Philadelphia region including in Bucks County.¹ For the past several weeks, community members have reported sightings of unidentified unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), in some cases appearing over areas with critical infrastructure. While initial briefings indicate no immediate threat to public safety, I take the legitimate concerns of my constituents seriously, as well as our neighbors in New Jersey, and the broader American public. I am calling on our federal agencies to increase resources dedicated to investigating this escalating issue and to deliver a thorough public briefing.

Through my role as Chairman of the National Intelligence Enterprise Subcommittee on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) I have requested a classified briefing from relevant intelligence agencies. Beyond this imperative briefing, I am requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Has the FAA been able to access the remote identifications of the drones not acting in compliance? If so, what can be determined about these UAS?
2. Are the DHS, the FAA, and the FBI collaborating with state and local partners to ensure the appropriate accountability measures are in place for violators of current UAS regulations?
3. Are there any measures authorities who oversee areas of critical infrastructure in this region should be implementing to protect themselves from a potential threat to their privacy and security?

¹Rohan, Jess and Cervantes, Fernando Jr. 2024. "Mystery drones: Bucks County police join NJ authorities in probe as FBI investigates" <https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/local/2024/12/09/drone-sightings-in-bucks-county-pa-amid-fbi-investigation-in-new-jersey-hunterdon-county/76859204007/>, Dec. 9, 2024.

4. Has the FAA been able to record the flight tracks of these UAS and identify what classes of airspace they are operating in and any subsequent airspace incursions?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, as well as your continued service in protecting our nation. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this request for information, please contact my office at (202) 225-4276.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress