



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

November 26, 2014

Mr. Marc Rotenburg
EPIC Executive Director
EPIC
1718 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009

Ms. Amie Stepanovich
EPIC National Security Counsel
EPIC
1718 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Rotenburg and Ms. Stepanovich:

This is in response to your March 8, 2012 letter sent to the public docket (Docket No. FAA-2012-0306) petitioning the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to initiate rulemaking to address the threat of privacy and civil liberties that will result from the deployment of aerial drones within the United States.

In accordance with 14 CFR § 11.73, the FAA must use the following criteria when making a decision as to whether or not to amend current regulations based on a petition for rulemaking:

- 1) The immediacy of the safety or security concerns you raise;
- 2) The priority of other issues the FAA must deal with; and
- 3) The resources we have available to address these issues.

Each year, the FAA prioritizes its rulemaking projects based on issues that are crucial to the safety of the aviation community and the traveling public to ensure the FAA delivers the most value to the aviation system.

After reviewing your request, we have determined that the issue you have raised is not an immediate safety concern. Moreover, the FAA has begun a rulemaking addressing civil operation of small unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system. We will consider your comments and arguments as part of that project.

When the FAA does pursue rulemaking in this area in the future, you would be able to find out and track it through one of the two following websites:

- For significant rulemakings, you can find the status on the Department of Transportation's (DOT) website (<http://www.dot.gov/regulations/report-on-significant-rulemakings>).
- For non-significant rulemakings, you can find the status on the DOT's semi-annual regulatory agenda, through the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs's (OIRA) Unified Agenda website (<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>).

For the reasons above, we are dismissing your petition for rulemaking in accordance with 14 CFR § 11.73.

Sincerely,



Lirio Liu
Director, Office of Rulemaking