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California Civil Liberties Advocacy  
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Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol Building,  
Room 2031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 56

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

We are writing to enlist the CCLA's **SUPPORT** for Assembly Bill 56.

The CCLA feels that legislation is urgently needed to check this quickly growing area of technology to prevent abuses — both civil and criminal. Unmanned aerial vehicles are becoming more and more prevalent, with law enforcement utilizing them to detect crime, and civilians using them in their work (such as to inspect cell phone towers), or hobbyists who use them to film nature and events. While these uses may seem innocuous to the casual observer, the potential for abuse is limitless. Such as law enforcement agencies using them for warrantless surveillance, or neighbors using them to harass and invade one another's privacy. Traditional jurisprudence has dictated that people have a right to privacy where they have an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy. Drone technology, however, has already begun to confound this reasoning and will surely become a source of contention for the courts in this new age.

The CCLA believes that law enforcement should never be permitted to use unmanned aerial vehicles absent a warrant based on probable cause. Nor should they be allowed to disseminate images or video footage of persons or property captured by such vehicles to other agencies or to the public absent a warrant, court order, absent the express consent of the persons or lawful owners of the property contained in the footage. We support the recent amendments in AB 56 which address these and similar concerns.

The CCLA has concerns that unmanned aerial vehicles should not be operated by non-law enforcement, other public entities, or private entities, above private property; or in such a way so as to capture images or video of private property; or to capture images or footage of persons, absent their prior consent. We understand that these issues are being addressed in related legislation.

*"Indifference to personal liberty is but the precursor of the state's hostility to it."  
— Justice Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court*

For all of the foregoing reasons, the CCLA **SUPPORTS** AB 56 *in its current form*.

Respectfully,



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cc: Senate Public Safety Committee  
Senator Loni Hancock (Chair)  
Senator Joel Anderson (Vice Chair)  
Senator Mark Leno  
Senator Carol Liu  
Senator Mike McGuire  
Senator Bill Monning  
Senator Jeff Stone