



Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS®

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FAAR Applauds FAA Rule to Expand Drone Usage

Fredericksburg, VA—(June 24, 2016) The Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS® (FAAR) applauds the recent ruling of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that expands drone usage throughout the country. Up to this point, anyone wishing to operate a drone for commercial use had to apply for a special waiver through the FAA and also be a licensed pilot.

The recent FAA ruling creates a clearer pathway for real estate professionals to use drones for commercial purposes. "We've worked hard to strike a responsible balance that protects the safety and privacy of individuals, while also ensuring real estate professionals can put drones to good use," said Salomone, broker-owner of Real Estate II Inc. in Coral Springs, Florida.

The FAA's announcement marks a long-fought victory for the National Association of Realtors®. Since early 2014 NAR has worked with the FAA and industry partners to integrate drones into the national airspace for commercial use. NAR wrote to the FAA on numerous occasions to weigh in on the final rule, and testified before Congress to support the use of drones in real estate.

Despite eliminating the requirement that operators hold a pilot's license, anyone looking to fly drones commercially will still have to comply with strict requirements designed to protect people on the ground.

Despite the significant progress made in the FAA's final rule, NAR's work on this issue will continue. NAR is calling for eased restrictions on a "micro" category of drones; drones in this category weigh less than four pounds and present a much smaller safety risk than certain drones in the under-55 pound category covered by the rule released today.

NAR also believes there is an ongoing need for a drone strategy that allows for "beyond visual line-of-sight" flights, or those where the operator cannot physically see the drone throughout the entire operation. These flights are particularly important for aerial photography across large buildings or tracts of land.

About FAAR

The Fredericksburg Area Association of REALTORS® is a trade association representing more than 1,400 REALTOR® members and 80 Affiliates. Serving the city of Fredericksburg and counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, and King George, FAAR also has members working in the surrounding counties of Westmoreland, Louisa, Orange, and Prince William.

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