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SENATOR
ROSEMARY M. BROWN
40TH DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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Administrator Michael Whitaker
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue
SW Washington, DC 20591

Dec. 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Whitaker:

I am writing you regarding a pressing matter of national security which requires immediate action.

Since mid-November, New Jersey has reported at least 3,000 unexplained drone sightings. These drones have flown over military bases, private residences, and some have been described as the size of a car. My senatorial district in Pennsylvania shares a border with New Jersey, and sightings of drones are now being reported within our state.

The response from the federal government has been more than unsatisfactory and unsettling.

Since the onset of this recent concern, our federal government has told us two contradictory statements regarding these drones, 1) "we just don't know" and that there is 2) "no threat to public safety". Justifiably, the American people have lost trust in our federal government to adequately respond to these crises. This erosion of trust began during the 2023 Chinese spy balloon incident, when a high-altitude balloon originating from China traversed the continental United States for eight days - entering from Alaska before being shot down off the coast of South Carolina.

It is time to allow state governments to respond swiftly and decisively in these instances. Currently, Federal Aviation Administration regulations limit state and local governments to disable or neutralize drones that pose eminent danger to the communities we represent. This is why I have introduced a resolution urging the federal government to empower the state governments with the legal authority to respond when drones are deemed a threat.

While this resolution is a strong and formal message, it is still within the federal government's jurisdiction to act now - allowing states to respond and collaborate effectively to protect the public from potential threats and ensure they are offered transparency to the issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary M. Brown".

Rosemary M. Brown
State Senator
40th Senatorial District