

# 09hr\_SC-CUER\_Misc\_pt01



Details: Letter re: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2009-10

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on ... Commerce, Utilities, Energy, & Rail (SC-CUER)

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

**TO:** Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Pat Kreitlow, Senator Ted Kanavas, Senator Jeff Plate, Rep. Spencer Black, Rep. Gordon Hintz, Rep. Dean Kaufert, and Mr. Terry McGuire. All members of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission, David W. Helbach, Secretary, Department of Administration, 101 E. Wilson, Madison, WI 53703

**FR:** Concerned Citizens of Wisconsin: Bonnie Block, Char Brandl, Joy First, Christine Kopish, Jackson Tiffany, Judy Miner, Karin Sandvik, Larry Orr, Mary Beth Schlagheck, Patty Martini, Tim Cordon, Steve Books, Robert Radford, Ron Renkoski, Elizabeth Villalobos, Carol Lukens, Laura Olah, Todd E. Dennis, Charlotte Sinvoi, Rev. Myron Talcott

**DA:** October 20, 2010

**RE:** An \$8 million operations center at Camp Williams for the RQ-7 Shadow 200, a tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, a.k.a. Drone) fielded to a Wisconsin Army National Guard unit. We bring before you today, a citizens' request for state-wide public hearings on whether this facility should be housed in Wisconsin.

We the citizens of Wisconsin would like to go on record as opposing the construction of a Drone or UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) facility at Camp Williams/Volk Field as well as the training and use of said Drones/UAV by the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Costs to operate such a system are twice the cost of manned reconnaissance.

Predator drones are being used illegally in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. We believe that the current Predator drone air strikes in Pakistan violate international and human rights law and should be stopped. A May 28, 2010 United Nations report raised concerns about these drone strikes resulting in "extrajudicial executions." Some legal experts say the operatives currently running these drones could be considered "enemy combatants" and open to charges of war crimes. On September 2, 2010 the Associated Press reported intensive drone strikes in southern Afghanistan leaving 60 persons dead, among them innocent civilians. This is not an uncommon occurrence.

In addition, the victims of these drone strikes are much more likely to become enemies of the United States and thus the entire policy is not only wrong but counterproductive because it will create new "terrorists" to fight our military and make all of us less safe.

We are also gravely concerned about the moral issues involved in the use of drones as we reflect on the suffering and death of innocent children, women, and men in Afghanistan and Pakistan that is a consequence of the drone attacks.

The Shadow 200 carries a camera rather than a lethal 'payload', and it will be used tactically for target acquisition, aerial reconnaissance and surveillance. That mission completed, "The Predator", a larger aircraft which does carry a lethal 'payload', will be called in for the attack.

Thus we call upon the Wisconsin Building Commission to block further action on construction of a Drone/UAV training facility until such time as the Commission can hold state-wide public hearings on whether this facility should be housed in Wisconsin.