

California Women for Agriculture
Santa Maria Chapter
Legislative Task Force
Ruth Jensen, Chair
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Micro UAS Drones:

On Thursday February 11, 2016 the Transportation and Infrastructure passed H.R. 4441 – The Aviation Innovation, Reform, & Reauthorization Act with the support of Mr. Davis. Included in the bill was Congressman Davis' amendment to provide an exemption for the use of Micro UAS** that includes drones weighing 4.4 lbs. or less operated within line of sight, less than 400 feet above the ground and more than 5 miles from airports. Also, if an operator of a Micro UAS wants to fly closer than 5 miles from an airport, they must provide the airport notice and the airport must sign off that there is no hazard that would endanger property or life. Mr. Davis believes the use of Micro UAS (drones) is an important tool in the advancement of agricultural production. H.R. 4441 is now set for a floor vote by the full House of Representatives.

House Agriculture Committee Hearing on EPA Over-Regulation:

Thursday February 11, 2016 the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing to consider the impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) actions on the rural economy. Members questioned EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on the agency's overreaching, burdensome regulations and policies such as "waters the United States" rule, proposed changes to the ozone standard and pesticide uses, and many more.

As you may remember, under the 2014 Farm Bill Congress fought for a provision that would establish an agriculture science advisory board* at the EPA to give farmers a stronger voice when the EPA considers regulations that will have a direct impact on the livelihood of our nation's producers. Since the Farm Bill was signed into law in February 2014, EPA was urged to follow the law and implement the advisory board as soon as possible. Mr. Davis asked the Administrator for an update on the implementation process.

** Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS)

*** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4441/text>

**** <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/11493/epa-agricultural-science-committee-nomination-deadline-extended>