

## **RESOLUTION 7-2012**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, SUPPORTING THE EFFORT OF THE ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY TO ATTRACT AND LOCATE AN FAA NATIONAL TEST RANGE AT THE BENSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IN BENSON, ARIZONA, FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona and the City of Benson have suffered severe economic distress resulting from job losses in the sectors that relied on housing and the development industry; and

WHEREAS, there is now a Federal mandate through HR 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), requiring the FAA to integrate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the National Air Space and identify six national test ranges to accomplish this mandate, and

WHEREAS, the Benson Municipal Airport achieved the status of being the singularly best location for such a test range based on many factors such as the size and availability of non-exclusionary airspace; proximity to restricted airspace, military operating areas, border patrol operations; other airspace uses like general aviation activity; weather for continuous testing; VFR operations; geography; elevation and climate, and

WHEREAS, the Benson Municipal Airport achieved the status of having the first airworthiness certificate issued by the FAA permitting an unmanned aircraft to operate at a public-use airport that serves general aviation in March of 2007, and

WHEREAS, establishing such an FAA National Test Range at the Benson Municipal Airport will attract numerous civilian contractors to the area with corresponding capital investment and higher than average salaried positions in addition to the FAA managers, engineers, trainers, and technicians, and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson and the State of Arizona need to capitalize on the extensive UAS training, UAS expertise and UAS operations that already exist in this area, and

WHEREAS, job creation, economic investment and sustainable wage job enhancement is sorely needed in Southeastern Arizona,

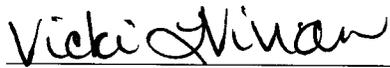
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, recognize the potential for sustainable wage job creation and other significant benefits that may result from the establishment of an FAA National Test Range at the Benson Municipal Airport in Benson, Arizona, and hereby supports and encourages the efforts of the Arizona Commerce Authority, SEAGO EDD, City of Sierra

Vista, SAEDG, Benson/San Pedro Valley Chamber of Commerce and all other stakeholders who will benefit greatly from this project.

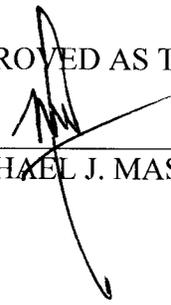
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 13th day of February, 2012.

  
LORI MCGOFFIN, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:

  
VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
MICHAEL J. MASSEE, City Attorney