[LETTERHEAD OR EMAIL]

RE: DJI BAN IN SECTION 1722 of HOUSE NDAA (H.R. 8070)

Dear Senator **[NAME]:**

I am writing to express our concern over Section 1722 of the recently passed House National Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 8070). Mosquito and Vector Control agencies nationwide have been leaders in the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to combat mosquitoes and protect public health, and a sudden ban on the use of DJI UAS would severely impact mosquito control UAS operations and disrupt innovation and development of new and improved ways to protect public health from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease.

A significant portion of mosquito control agencies nationwide use DJI UAS to detect and manage mosquitoes and threats of mosquito-borne disease in areas that do not contain critical infrastructure or require sensitive data collection. In fact, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) has been working closely with the Federal Aviation Administration and its over 900 mosquito control agency members to increase the safety and streamline regulatory compliance to enhance the safe and effective use of UAS technology to protect public health.

A 2023 AMCA member survey revealed that 56% of respondents are currently using drones and an additional 32% are planning to deploy drones. Among the most common uses, larvicide application in rural areas, surveillance for standing water, mapping, and urban applications of larvicides are the most significant. Three types of drones are utilized by AMCA members: large spray drones, small spray drones, and camera/sensor drones. Of these, the drones manufactured by DJI make up the largest proportion with 81% share for camera/sensor drones and close to half (45%) of small spray drones. While a much smaller proportion, a still significant 26% of large spray drones are from DJI.

**The benefits of drones in mosquito control are that they allow for more timely and precise access to areas that produce mosquitoes** to detect standing water, apply mosquito control products (mostly larvicides to standing water at this point), and eliminate environmental impacts of traditional mosquito control methods in sensitive areas such as walking through wetlands with backpack sprayers, using amphibious tracked vehicles, using helicopters or fixed wing aircraft on smaller target areas or near populated areas.

At **[YOUR AGENCY’S NAME]**, we use UAS to **[EXPLAIN THE TYPES OF UAS MISSIONS]**.

**[IF APPLICABLE, EXPLAIN WHAT DJI UAS YOUR AGENCY OWNS AND OPERATES, AND EXPLAIN WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE IF DJI UAS WERE SUDDENLY GROUNDED NATIONWIDE]**

**Drones manufactured by DJI have been a good choice for many public health applications as they are easy to use, less than half the cost and have had more flight hours demonstrating airworthiness leading to faster approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration compared to U.S. manufactured drones.** Public health uses of drone technology require significant and lengthy operational, regulatory, and, at times, hardware, and software customization to be safe and effective at performing mosquito control related operations. Because each drone system is different, this process must be repeated for each new system a mosquito control agency acquires.

We understand that there may be cybersecurity concerns surrounding the fact that DJI is a Chinese company, however, it is important to realize that **mosquito control uses of UAS by public agencies do not operate in and around critical infrastructure or engage in sensitive aerial data collection.** Instead, we use UAS to specifically assess areas for mosquito habitat and make standard applications of public health insecticides, as appropriate, to reduce mosquitoes and the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

**[YOUR AGENCY’s NAME] asks that Section 1722 of the House NDAA (H.R 8070) be amended to allow mosquito control agencies, reasonable accommodations to allow drones, produced by DJI or any other manufacturer approved by the FAA, to continue to be to be used to monitor and control mosquitoes to protect public health in non-critical infrastructure areas.**

Respectfully,

[YOUR NAME and TITLE]