

Enacted May 3, 2014

Drones Resolution of Leverett, Massachusetts

WHEREAS, the use of drones, commonly called Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by industry proponents, raises concerns with respect to targeted killing in our names, privacy, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech, and thus ushers in the loss of constitutional protections, democracy, and the rule of law, and

WHEREAS, drones have been used in foreign lands to intentionally kill people, including at least two American citizens without appropriate public judicial review, and

WHEREAS, the weapons launched by drones have killed, injured and maimed thousands of people, including men, women and children, resulting in trauma to these individuals, families, communities and the environment, and

WHEREAS, such use of lethal force without due process constitutes misuse of governmental powers specifically prohibited in the United States Constitution, and

WHEREAS, drones now being marketed to domestic law enforcement agencies are capable of being armed with weapons and used for unlawful purposes, and

WHEREAS, drone technology as a means of data collection has the potential for misuse that could affect individual privacy and civil liberties, including the freedom of association and assembly, equal protection and due process under the law, and

WHEREAS, small, low-flying drones, when granted the "public right of transit" under federal law, present a real and imminent threat to our privacy, property rights and local sovereignty, violate a century of legal precedent, and contradict the intent of the US Congress when it established federal airspace under the Air Commerce Act of 1926,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution declares that no agency of the Town of Leverett, nor any agent(s) under contract with the Town of Leverett, will operate drones in the airspace over Leverett in a manner that violates the constitutional rights of residents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett affirms that, within the Leverett Town limits, landowners and tenants, subject to state laws and local ordinances, have exclusive control of the immediate reaches of the airspace and, that no drone, unmanned aircraft, or other airborne object, shall have the "public right of transit" through this private property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Leverett requests its representatives, Congressman Jim McGovern and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, to introduce a resolution in the United States Congress to end the practice of extrajudicial killing by armed drone aircraft, to specifically withhold money for that purpose, to make restitution for injuries, fatalities and environmental damage resulting from the actions of the United States government, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, allied nations and/or its private contractors.