

# Professors object to FAA restrictions on drone use

July 28 2014, by Joan Lowy

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(AP)—Thirty university and college professors say government restrictions on the use of small drones are likely to stifle academic research.

The professors said in a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration that a clarification the agency issued last month on rules model aircraft hobbyists must follow would eliminate the ability of researchers to use small unmanned aircraft on low-altitude flights over private property.

Model aircraft have increased in sophistication and capability to the point that they are virtually indistinguishable from small [drones](#). And the price of the aircraft has been dropping, making them more affordable for researchers and other users.

The letter says the FAA rules would let a child operate a model aircraft but prohibit a researcher from using the same technology.

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