

I voted Yes on H.R. 3801, to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under aviation smuggling provisions.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (AZ-8), amends the Tariff Act of 1930 to include ultralight aircraft under its aviation smuggling provisions, and provides for additional criminal punishments for using an ultralight aircraft to transport illegal goods. Under current law, it is a crime for individuals to use aircraft to illegally transport drugs and the maximum penalty carries a \$250,000 and a 20-year prison sentence. This legislation would update the law to allow the same penalties for persons smuggling drugs on ultralight aircraft.

Ultralight aircraft are flown across the southern border and can carry several hundred pounds of drugs. They are favored by smugglers because they are inexpensive, quiet, and can fly at night without lights. These aircraft can drop a load of drugs in the U.S. and return to Mexico without ever landing in our country.

I support this legislation to close a legal loophole and give law enforcement an additional tool to combat drug trafficking. The bill was approved by a vote of 408 - 0.