



**SMALL UAV
COALITION**
*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

NEWS RELEASE

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Coalition Welcomes Blumenauer UAS Legislation

The Commercial UAS Modernization Act Will Help Realize the Economic Benefits of the Small UAS Industry

WASHINGTON, DC – FEBRUARY 2, 2016 – The Small UAV Coalition applauds Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) for introducing the Commercial UAS Modernization Act, which would pave the way for safe, efficient, and timely integration of small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System for commercial purposes.

The Commercial UAS Modernization Act complements S. 1314, the Commercial UAS Modernization Act introduced in May 2015 by Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and John Hoeven (R-ND), and would allow American businesses of all sizes to take advantage of this technology now, bringing the United States further in line with countries like Japan and France, who have long embraced the benefits of commercial UAS operations.

Importantly, the Blumenauer bill includes a provision that would establish a “micro UAS” classification and provide for commercial operation of the smallest category of UAS (those weighing 4.4 pounds and under) on the same terms under which hobbyists have safely flown for years: operating below 400 feet above ground level, within the visual line of sight, and away from airports. Drawn largely from a concept proposed in the preamble to the FAA’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on small UAS, the micro UAS provision enhances the safety of the National Airspace System and seizes upon the commercial benefits of the smallest UAS.

The Coalition also welcomes a provision contained in both bills that would create a Deputy Associate Administrator within the FAA to increase the Administration’s ability to efficiently manage this rapidly growing industry, including overseeing UAS research and development and authorizing operations beyond the parameters of the FAA’s proposed rule.

The Small UAV Coalition thanks Rep. Blumenauer for his leadership on UAS issues and his commitment to innovation in the United States. We look forward to continuing to work with all members of Congress and the FAA to fully realize the vast economic potential of small UAS.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit www.smalluavcoalition.org, contact press@smalluavcoalition.org, or follow @smallUAVs on Twitter.

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