



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Small UAV Coalition Lauds Safe DRONE Act of 2017** **Safe DRONE Act Will Enable Commercial UAS Industry Growth**

**WASHINGTON, DC – June 22, 2017** – The Small UAV Coalition applauds Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), John Hoeven (R-ND), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Dean Heller (R-NV) for introducing the Safe Development, Research, and Opportunities Needed for Entrepreneurship Act of 2017 (Safe DRONE Act of 2017), which would enable the safe and expeditious integration of small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System for commercial purposes.

The Safe DRONE Act includes a number of important provisions critical to realizing the vast economic and social benefits of commercial UAS technology. Importantly, the Safe DRONE Act includes a provision to lift the hold on critical FAA UAS rulemakings currently hindering industry growth. The bill sets a timeline for the FAA to release notices of proposed rulemaking (NPRMs) for UAS operations over people (OOP) and beyond the visual line of sight (BVLOS), both of which are critical to routine applications such as cell tower inspection, crop monitoring, mapping and surveying, and delivery.

Further, the Safe DRONE Act would require the FAA to publish an unmanned traffic management (UTM) implementation plan within one year. An interoperable UTM framework is critical to ensuring the safe integration of UAS into low-altitude, uncontrolled airspace.

The legislation would also advance the release of long-awaited FAA guidance to expedite authorization of UAS emergency response operations. The provision builds upon Section 2207 of the 2016 short-term FAA reauthorization bill, which required the FAA to publish guidance on these procedures by October 2016. Once established, this process will enable streamlined approval of UAS operations for life-saving emergency response missions.

The Safe DRONE Act also ensures that the FAA has appropriate authority to maintain reasonable oversight of UAS operations, including management of a national UAS registry, which is the first step to identifying UAS operating in the national airspace.

The Small UAV Coalition thanks Senators Warner, Hoeven, Cortez Masto, and Heller for their leadership on UAS policy development and commitment to innovation in the United States. As Congress begins the FAA reauthorization process, we look forward to continuing to work with all members and the FAA to advance a regulatory framework that enables U.S. leadership in the research, development, production, and application of commercial UAS technology.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit [www.smalluavcoalition.org](http://www.smalluavcoalition.org), contact [press@smalluavcoalition.org](mailto:press@smalluavcoalition.org), or follow [@smallUAVs](https://twitter.com/smallUAVs) on Twitter.

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