



SMALL UAV COALITION

*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: press@smalluavcoalition.org

Small UAV Coalition Applauds House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Commerce Committee FAA Reauthorization Bills

WASHINGTON, DC – June 9, 2023 – The Small UAV Coalition applauds the bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Chair Rep. Sam Graves (R-KS), Ranking Member Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Subcommittee Chair Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA), and Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) in introducing today the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, a five-year authorization of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs and scheduling a markup for next week. The Coalition also thanks the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Chair Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) Ranking Member Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Subcommittee Chair Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Subcommittee Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS), for releasing a draft FAA Reauthorization Act of 2023, scheduled for mark up on June 15. Drones are providing numerous public benefits, such as safe and efficient critical infrastructure inspection, speedy delivery of every-day goods as well as critical medical supplies, agile search and rescue capabilities, and much more.

Gregory Walden, the Coalition's aviation counsel, stated, "We are very pleased that the House and Senate authorization committees have included several forward-looking drone provisions in their FAA reauthorization bill. Though there is more work to be done to achieve a mature regulatory framework, enactment of these provisions will mark significant progress, provided the FAA executes this congressional direction in a timely manner."

Included in the House and Senate FAA reauthorization bill are several forward-looking provisions that will advance the regulatory and policy framework to integrate drones into the national airspace, including an extension and expansion of exemption authority, shaping a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) rulemaking and approvals for BVLOS operations before a rulemaking is completed, directing the FAA to develop an acceptable level of risk and a risk assessment methodology, and promoting the development of a UTM system for deconflicting drones and other aircraft in low altitude airspace.

With reauthorization of FAA programs required by September 30, the Coalition is pleased that the Committees are moving quickly to introduce a bill that may be marked up as soon as next week. The Coalition and its members look forward to continuing to work with House and Senate Committee members and staff to answer questions and provide assistance as these bills move

to markup and then the House and Senate floor.

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

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