



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Small UAV Coalition Applauds Introduction of the Increasing Competitiveness for American Drones Act by Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN) and Rob Menendez (D-NJ)**

**WASHINGTON, DC – May 17, 2023** – The Small UAV Coalition is pleased to support H.R. 3459, the Increasing Competitiveness for American Drones Act of 2023 introduced today by Representative Rudy Yakym III (R-IN) and Robert J. Menendez Jr. (D-NJ). This bill is a companion to S. 307, a bill introduced in February by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and John Thune (R-SD) that has attracted bipartisan support. This legislation is an important step toward full integration of drones into the airspace. Drones are providing numerous public benefits, from speedy delivery of every-day goods as well as critical medical supplies, agile search and rescue capabilities, safe and efficient critical infrastructure inspection, and much more.

The Coalition is grateful for the leadership of Representative Yakym, who serves as Vice-Chair of the House Aviation Subcommittee, and Representative Menendez, a member of the House Aviation Subcommittee. This bill comes at a critical stage in the drafting of a House Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill, with reauthorization of FAA programs required by September 30.

The Small UAV Coalition strongly supports this bill and urges the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to include this bill in its FAA reauthorization proposal expected to be marked up next month.

Coalition aviation counsel Greg Walden stated, “This bill addresses so many needs across manifold use cases. It will increase efficiencies by providing structural reforms to the FAA certification and approval processes, enabling the industry to scale beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) commercial operations. It is a recipe for success for a thriving US-based drone industry to serve US customer demand.”

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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