



## **SMALL UAV COALITION**

*A Partnership for  
Safety & Innovation*

### **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [press@smalluavcoalition.org](mailto:press@smalluavcoalition.org)

## **Small UAV Coalition Announces Publication of Study of Public Benefits of Drone Operations**

**WASHINGTON, DC – February 2, 2026** – The Small UAV Coalition announced today that a study of the public benefits of commercial drone operations in the United States sponsored by the Coalition has been published and has been submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration to assist its cost-benefit analysis as part of its rulemaking, “Normalizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems Beyond Visual Line of Sight Operations,” as well as in support of the FAA’s draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for package delivery throughout the United States.

“The rulemaking to authorize drone operations beyond the visual line of sight is the most important rulemaking to help America regain its global leadership in advanced aviation,” said Gregory Walden, aviation counsel for the Small UAV Coalition. “Simultaneously, a framework for drone operations will bring countless benefits to all Americans.”

The study projects that, following adoption of a workable BVLOS final rule, drone operations over the next five years will deliver:

- Significant economic benefits: an estimated \$67-69 billion in cost savings through operational efficiencies, \$18 billion in new sales through increased reach and lower costs, and time savings valued in the tens of billions of dollars;
- Consumer benefits from time savings and cost savings valued at over a billion dollars; and
- Societal and safety benefits from an estimated nearly 1,000 lives saved and over one hundred thousand work and personal injuries avoided.

The study has been filed as an attachment to the Coalition’s comments filed on the proposed BVLOS rule in October, which can be accessed on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), FAA-2025-1908-2892. The study will be available also on the Coalition’s website, [www.smalluavcoalition.org](http://www.smalluavcoalition.org), along with the Coalition’s comments. 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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