



**Statement by the Commercial Drone Alliance
Regarding the Presidential Budget for Fiscal Year 2023**

The Commercial Drone Alliance (CDA) appreciates the Federal Aviation Administration's receptiveness to certain industry concerns regarding a reorganization that would place the UAS Integration Office within the FAA's Research & Development organization. The President's Budget contains a new proposal to establish an Office of Integration & Engagement, that would include the UAS Integration Office and would be led by an Assistant Administrator for Integration and Engagement (reporting directly to the FAA Administrator).

However, we remain concerned that the proposal does not address the fundamental issue with the FAA's existing framework, which fails to align authority with responsibility. The proposed reorganization will only be successful if the UAS office is empowered with both responsibility and authority for creating and administering policy, regulations, approvals, waivers and other decisions that are integral to enabling scalable commercial drone operations in the U.S. Moreover, the CDA believes that the Office should be led by an Associate Administrator (rather than an Assistant Administrator) to successfully enable the important objectives of the Office. As a staff office under this proposal, the UAS Office as proposed would not have the appropriate approval authority, span of control or access to suitable resources and funding.

The CDA is committed to continuing to work with the DOT, FAA, and other relevant stakeholders to find solutions that will move UAS integration forward and enable the United States to maintain its global leadership in aviation.