



Commercial Drone Alliance Supports Congressional Renewal and Expansion of the Preventing Emerging Threats Act

The safety, security, efficiency, sustainability and equity benefits of commercial uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS or drones) are significant, and drones are already enhancing lives in communities around the world. However, here in the U.S., policymaking has lagged behind technology. Just like policy has lagged behind technology on the commercial drone “use” side, the same is true for drone security. Congress must update archaic laws that interfere with the ability of federal, state, local and private entities to protect sensitive airspace.

The Commercial Drone Alliance (CDA)¹ has worked for years with federal government officials, industry stakeholders, and others to promote solutions that enable the safe and secure integration of UAS into our National Airspace System. The CDA appreciates the common interest that the government, industry, and the general public all share in protecting against potential public safety and homeland security threats posed by rogue or unauthorized UAS. Indeed, the CDA considers innovation and security two sides of the same coin.

In that spirit, the CDA supports the “Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act,” introduced by Senator Peters (“Safeguarding the Homeland Act”), which would expand detection authority and implement a pilot program extending counter-drone authority, under appropriate oversight and training, to certain state and local law enforcement officials. The CDA also supports expanding Counter-UAS authority to certain federal agencies, including the Department of State, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Transportation Security Administration (the latter of which has limited authority now that would be expanded in the proposed renewal).

The CDA believes that any counter-UAS legislation must not interfere with lawful commercial UAS operations. To enable expanded commercial drone operations, we believe the Preventing Emerging Threats Act renewal and expansion efforts should consider incorporating a “trusted operator” system for drones similar to the Transportation Security Administration’s Pre-Check and Global Entry programs, which would enable the government to maintain a database of authorized commercial UAS operations and help the relevant agencies and public safety officials with threat assessment and threat discrimination.

The CDA appreciates the opportunity to work with Congress on these important provisions and issues, and we look forward to continued collaboration.

¹ The CDA is an independent non-profit organization led by key leaders in the commercial drone and advanced air mobility industries. The CDA brings together commercial drone end-users, manufacturers, service providers, advanced air mobility companies, drone security companies, and vertical markets including oil and gas, precision agriculture, construction, security, communications technology, infrastructure, newsgathering, filmmaking, and more. The CDA works with all levels of government to collaborate on policies for industry growth and seeks to educate the public on the safe and responsible use of commercial drones to achieve economic benefits and humanitarian gains. Learn more at www.commercialdronealliance.org.