



November 15, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Democratic Leader Jeffries, and Republican Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the undersigned technology and service providers, we write to express our concern about the rising threat to public safety posed by the increasing misuse of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). The Security Industry Association (SIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing over 1,500 companies providing a broad range of safety and security-focused products and services in the U.S. Among other sectors, our members include the leading providers of Counter-UAS (C-UAS) technologies available around the world providing effective solutions for successfully managing risks, as well as the security service providers and integrators that use these products to carry out critical public safety functions.

SIA's C-UAS Working Group comprises technology providers, security integrators, service providers, and subject matter experts. We support urgent action to address the rapidly evolving threats posed by the misuse and weaponization of UAS systems and strive to help educate stakeholders and provide authorities with the broadest range of effective solutions to address these threats. We appreciate Congress's short-term extension to continue the current Counter-UAS (C-UAS) authorities until December 20, 2024. However, in the long term, a straight extension without reasonable and measured expansion of C-UAS authorities, including to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement, as well as critical infrastructure, would leave our nation with an outdated framework insufficient for addressing today's threats, sure to result in failure to prevent or mitigate a serious event. Federal agencies have successfully piloted these technologies by leveraging C-UAS in hundreds of sensitive protective missions since the Emerging Threats Act was enacted in 2018. However, SLTT agencies responsible for public safety, and operators responsible for protecting critical infrastructure, remain without needed legal authority and tools needed to distinguish dangerous UAS from UAS flown by responsible operators.

SIA's C-UAS working group has determined it is critical that Congress pass a reauthorization and expansion of C-UAS authorities that includes authorities for SLTT and security personnel to use FAA tested drone detection, tracking, and identification systems without a burdensome government approval process, the authority to establish training criteria for C-UAS operators, and a realistic mitigation pilot program for law enforcement and critical infrastructure operators.

The growing threat of UAS in the hands of terrorists, criminals, and nation-state adversaries is real. It is becoming far too common that terrorists and armed groups overseas are arming commercial off-the-shelf drones to conduct devastating attacks that are cheap and simple to carry out. In the U.S., criminals, including drug cartels, regularly use drones for smuggling contraband into prisons and cross-border trafficking.<sup>1</sup> Even just earlier this October, the FBI and local law enforcement agencies took into custody an Arizona teenager who had plans to use an explosive remote-controlled drone to carry out an ISIS-inspired attack.<sup>2</sup> Adversaries can also use drones to surveil sensitive sites, interfere with government operations, or enable cyber intrusion operations. This threat landscape continues to escalate as technology advances rapidly, and all relevant stakeholder federal agencies, are in agreement on the urgent need for Congress to pass a durable, multi-year reauthorization and expansion of C-UAS authorities as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2025.<sup>3</sup> It is critical that law enforcement agencies, critical infrastructure operators, and public venues get access to these essential technologies to detect the presence of hostile unmanned systems with enough time to take appropriate steps for public safety.

Recently, Senators Peters and Johnson led an amendment, SA 3233, to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), coordinated between the Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Judiciary, and Commerce, Justice and Science committees, to extend and expand C-UAS authorities under the Preventing Emerging Threats Act. In September, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved H.R. 8610, a C-UAS authorities measure that included input from the three committees of jurisdiction, including the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. There has been significant stakeholder effort to collaborate with House and Senate lawmakers on common-sense, workable legislation. To address the gravity of growing threats, it is critical that you continue the bipartisan, bicameral work that has already been done and complete this C-UAS reauthorization during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

SIA's C-UAS Working Group stands by to offer any additional information or assistance that you would need.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/air-space-magazine/narcodrones-180974934/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www-azfamily-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.azfamily.com/2024/10/23/teen-arrested-plotting-isis-inspired-terror-drone-attack-phoenix-pride-parade/?outputType=amp>

<sup>3</sup> <https://aboutbgov.com/bfAF>

Dedrone by Axon  
D-Fend Solutions  
Epirus  
Imperative Systems, LLC  
Petroni Risk  
Phoenix 6 Consulting LLC  
Safeguards Consulting, Inc.  
SAIC

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CC: The Honorable Mark Green, Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Gary Peters, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
The Honorable Rand Paul, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
The Honorable Rick Larson, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Jack Reed, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee