



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

NEWS RELEASE

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Coalition Applauds Senate Passage of FAA Reauthorization Legislation

**Includes Critical Provisions to Advance the Development of a Comprehensive UAS
Regulatory Framework**

WASHINGTON, DC – APRIL 19, 2016 – Today, the Senate voted to pass legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration that includes a forward-leaning unmanned aerial systems (UAS) title that will increase safety and accountability as the United States moves towards a regulatory framework that will expedite the integration of small UAS into the National Airspace System.

The Small UAV Coalition commends Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Thune (R-SD) and Ranking Member Nelson (D-FL), as well as Aviation Subcommittee Chairwoman Ayotte (R-NH) and Ranking Member Cantwell (D-WA), for crafting bipartisan legislation that recognizes the pressing need for a UAS regulatory framework that will allow the United States to keep pace with global competitors who are increasingly embracing the benefits of UAS. The Coalition would also like to thank Senators Thune, Cantwell, Heller (R-NV), Booker (D-NJ), Hatch (R-UT), Inhofe (R-OK), Whitehouse (D-RI), Heitkamp (D-ND), and King (I-ME) for championing amendments to support the further development of this innovative and promising sector of the American economy.

The legislation includes several key provisions that represent major steps towards safe and widespread UAS integration, including a provision that creates a pathway for a new class of air carriers for companies to leverage small UAS technology to deliver products to consumers and steps to expand and promote beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and nighttime operations, crucial components of commercial UAS operations across every sector of the economy.

The Coalition also supports a strong provision that affirms the FAA's exclusive jurisdiction over the national airspace, while not disrupting existing local and state laws that consumers support. This provision is consistent with a FAA [fact sheet](#) on state and local UAS regulations which warns that a "patchwork quilt" of differing restrictions could severely limit the flexibility of FAA in controlling the airspace and flight patterns, and ensuring safety and an efficient air traffic flow."

Another provision to establish an unmanned traffic management system (UTM) pilot program is an important step towards implementing critical infrastructure to ensure the safe integration of UAS into low-altitude, uncontrolled airspace. The Coalition also supported efforts to enable broader UAS access to commercial mobile services and unlicensed spectrum, another vital component to safe integration of UAS, and to establish a micro UAS classification to provide for commercial operation of the smallest category of UAS.

The Small UAV Coalition commends the Senate for passing its bill and encourages Congress to enact FAA reauthorization legislation into law in the near term. Without a regulatory framework in place, the United States risks falling behind global competitors who are increasingly embracing the benefits of

UAS. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress, the FAA, and the Administration to fully realize the vast economic potential of small UAS for commercial, philanthropic, and civil purposes.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit www.smalluavcoalition.org, contact press@smalluavcoalition.org, or follow @smallUAVs on Twitter.

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