



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Garret Graves
Chair
Subcommittee on Aviation
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
Chair
Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
United States House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chair Graves, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Larsen, Ranking Member Cruz, Chair Graves, Chair Duckworth, Ranking Member Cohen, and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf of the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) and our expansive membership in the drone/uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), counter-drone, autonomy, robotics, and advanced air mobility (AAM) domains, thank you for your diligent work on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024. We know how much work went into getting to this point and we are very grateful for you and your collective staffs' dedication to getting this Reauthorization done. AUVSI urges expeditious consideration and passage of the pre-conferenced bill by both the Senate and the House.

It is imperative that the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 is enacted into law before the May 10 deadline to avoid another extension. AUVSI has continuously advocated for a long-term FAA Reauthorization bill to be enacted into law as soon as possible. A continued patchwork of extensions presents significant challenges for both government and industry, and this five-year FAA Reauthorization will inject much needed stability and continuity where it is needed most.



The pre-conferenced FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 advances aviation safety and ensures a pathway for integration of both drones and AAM aircraft into the National Airspace System (NAS). It contains strong language related to UAS, autonomy, robotics, and AAM in a variety of areas, including Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone operations and moving the AAM/powered-lift industry closer to operations at scale through rulemaking. The legislation addresses critical expiring authorities, like Section 44807, while also streamlining approval of risk-based processes for various uncrewed operations. We applaud the efforts to address issues including UAS waivers, workforce challenges, FAA-industry information sharing, and issues related to non-secure UAS, along with dozens of other provisions that will move the industry forward safely. We also appreciate the inclusion of new and extension of existing grant programs that will continue to grow the UAS and AAM sectors.

AUVSI is committed to continuing to work with you during the critical implementation period that will follow enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. We will continue to be a key resource to the FAA as they execute against the many important mandates included in the legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything from AUVSI or our expansive membership.

Regards,

Michael Robbins

Michael Robbins
President & CEO
Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International