



September 13, 2024

The Honorable Mark Green  
Chairman  
The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
The Honorable Rick Larson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
The Honorable Jerry Nadler  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairmen Green, Graves, Jordan, and Ranking Members Thompson, Larson, and Nadler,

On behalf of the undersigned national law enforcement and corrections organizations, we write to express significant and rising concern regarding threats posed to our communities by uncrewed aerial systems (UAS). We appreciate the clear bipartisan agreement in Congress that legislative action is required to improve our ability to address these threats. However, we consider the current version of H.R. 8610, the Counter-UAS Authority Security, Safety, and Reauthorization Act, to be woefully inadequate in addressing the threats we are facing every day. Comprehensive counter-drone legislation that responsibly builds upon current limited authorities is desperately needed.

Despite the clear threat, no state or local law enforcement or corrections entity has the legal authority for advanced drone detection and the ability to deploy drone countermeasures after threats are detected. As you know, detection and mitigation authority currently rest solely with four

Federal agencies. It is critical that Congress builds upon these existing authorities by giving state and local law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities mitigation authority with guardrails.

Risks posed by the malicious use of drones, including criminal and terrorist activity, are particularly acute in correctional facilities, around mass gatherings such as sporting and entertainment events and sites, and around critical infrastructure.

The very narrow pilot program in the current version of H.R. 8610 would do little to address the threats we see on a regular basis. Here are just a few recent examples:

- On September 4, 2024, a Green Day concert at Comerica Park in Detroit, Michigan was briefly interrupted with the band being ushered off the stage due to an individual flying a drone over the stadium. The individual was eventually found and charged, with the concert resuming.
- In January 2024, during the AFC championship game in Baltimore, a UAS violated the temporary flight restrictions resulting in a game delay. The drone operator was interdicted by law enforcement, and the game resumed.
- On August 21, 2024, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia publicly released indictments against 23 defendants as part of Operation Night Drop in widespread conspiracies that used drones to deliver drugs and cell phones to Georgia state prisons.
- In March 2024, 150 individuals in Georgia were arrested as part of Operation Skyhawk for using drones to smuggle drugs, weapons, and cellphones into Georgia correctional facilities.
- Over the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair, which is one of the Nation's largest, drawing nearly 2 million visitors annually, 41 drones were detected violating the temporary flight restrictions.

While we appreciate your recognition of the need to expand counter-UAS authorities, we strongly encourage you to amend H.R. 8610 to address the gravity of known UAS risks to public safety. We look forward to collaborating with you to create a counter-UAS framework that is workable, appropriately balances stakeholder equities, and protects our communities.

Sincerely,

American Correctional Association (ACA)  
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)  
National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)  
National HIDTA Directors Association (NHDA)  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)

Cc: Members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Members of the House Homeland Security Committee