



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

NEWS RELEASE

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FAA Extension a Lost Opportunity to Create Forward-Thinking Regulatory Climate for UAS Industry

Omits Provisions Critical to Safety and Industry Growth – Congressional Action Needed in Near-Term to Promote Innovation

WASHINGTON, DC – July 7, 2016 – With current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorities set to expire on July 15, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leaders today unveiled legislation to extend FAA authorities through September 30, 2017. As the Small UAV Coalition [wrote](#) to congressional leadership in May, the unmanned aerial systems (UAS) industry cannot fully and safely develop and thrive under continued short-term extensions of current authorities.

The Coalition was pleased to see that the extension directs the FAA to establish an unmanned traffic management (UTM) pilot program, a critical component of safe, efficient, and widespread commercial UAS operations. The Coalition has long advocated for a UTM pilot program that will build upon years of research conducted by NASA in partnership with industry and recently [wrote](#) to the committees to urge them to include a UTM provisions in any extension of FAA authorities.

Unfortunately, important provisions of the House and Senate reauthorization bills that would allow the United States to fully realize the immense economic potential and consumer benefits of rapidly developing UAS technology were not included in the extension. While the Coalition welcomes the implementation of the first regulatory framework for commercial UAS operations, commonly known as Part 107, later this year, it does not alleviate the need for Congress to act to ensure that the FAA takes a more progressive and expeditious approach to developing robust UAS regulations.

The Coalition is disappointed that the extension does not include several important bipartisan provisions that go beyond the scope of Part 107, including provisions to create a framework for small UAS to deliver goods, to ensure safe and efficient operations through consistent regulations within the nation's airspace, and to create a micro UAS classification to provide for safe and efficient commercial operations of the smallest category of UAS. All are key components of the forward-leaning, long-term regulatory framework needed for the industry to develop with the highest levels of safety and responsibility.

Stakeholders from across the aviation sector [agree](#) that short-term extensions hinder economic growth and stifle safety and job creation. The Coalition strongly urges Congress to pass long-term, comprehensive FAA reauthorization legislation as soon as possible so that the United

States can maintain its role as the world's leader in UAS in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit www.smalluavcoalition.org, contact press@smalluavcoalition.org, or follow [@smallUAVs](https://twitter.com/smallUAVs) on Twitter.

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