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Small UAV Coalition Comments on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program

Announcement Highlights Importance of Regulatory Framework for UAS

WASHINGTON, DC – October 25, 2017 – Today, President Trump directed the Department of Transportation to establish an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program to coordinate federal, state, and local support for the successful integration of UAS into the national airspace. The Small UAV Coalition welcomes this announcement and looks forward to reviewing additional details of the program released by the Department in the coming days.

Earlier this month, the Coalition was pleased to join 30 organizations in a <u>letter</u> to the President underscoring the need for such a pilot program. The letter also reiterates the importance of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sovereignty when it comes to ensuring the safety of the national airspace for both manned and unmanned aircraft and continuous certainty and stability for UAS operators and manufacturers.

The Coalition also welcomes the Administration's commitment to promoting the safe operation of UAS and to enabling the development of UAS technology for a wide range of use cases, from emergency management to agriculture and commerce, among others.

As the pilot program gets underway, the Coalition looks forward to continuing to work with Congress, the FAA, and all stakeholders to advance long-term FAA reauthorization legislation that will help ensure that the United States fully embraces the immense economic potential and consumer benefits of UAS technology in the near-term.

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

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