



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) respectfully submits the following statement for the record for the Senate Judiciary Committee’s hearing titled “Defending Against Drones: Setting Safeguards for Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems Authorities.” We appreciate the Committee’s ongoing efforts to address the public safety threats posed by illicit unmanned aircraft, or drones, to our nation’s critical infrastructure, sporting and entertainment events, and airports.

Drones provide substantial economic, social, and national security benefits to the United States and it is crucial that we take a global lead in this innovative technology. However, the misuse and illicit use of drones presents substantial public safety, national security and economic concerns. These concerns include endangering the flying public, disrupting major sporting and entertainment events, enabling criminal and terrorism threats to public safety, and industrial espionage activities towards our most advanced critical infrastructure facilities. These risks are not hypothetical, given the number of unauthorized drone intrusions, close calls, and use of drones globally for malicious purposes.¹

Presently, four federal agencies have the legal authority to utilize counter-drone detection and mitigation technologies to protect certain sensitive facilities and operations. While we support the missions of those federal agencies to use counter-drone technologies, those federal agencies do not have sufficient resources and

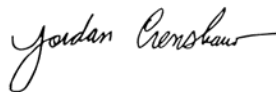
¹ Sara Ruberg, *Man Planned to Use Drone With Explosive to Attack Substation, U.S. Says*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Nov. 4, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/04/us/columbia-energy-facility-weapon-mass-destruction.html>; James Tutton, *FBI Investigates After Large Drones Seen Flying Near Military Base and Trump’s Bedminster Golf Club*, WFTV9 (Dec. 4, 2024), <https://www.wftv.com/news/local/fbi-investigates-after-large-drones-seen-flying-near-military-base-trumps-bedminster-golf-club/UU7NO62Y6VAZNCMIBN3GD7XYT4/>; Gordon Lubold, Lara Seligman, and Aruna Viswanatha, *Mystery Drones Swarmed a U.S. Military Base for 17 Days. The Pentagon Is Stumped*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Oct. 12, 2024), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/drones-military-pentagon-defense-331871f4>; *Russian Drones Attack Critical Infrastructure in Ukraine’s West, Air Force Says*, REUTERS (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-drone-attack-leaves-parts-ukraines-ternopil-without-power-military-says-2024-12-03/>; UAS Sightings Report, Federal Aviation Administration (accessed Dec. 9, 2024), https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/public_records/uas_sightings_report.

adequate legal authorities to adequately protect the full scope of sensitive facilities and operations affected by illicit drone operations. Congress can remedy this issue by responsibly expanding detection and mitigation authorities to other relevant federal government agencies and functions that currently do not possess these authorities, detection authorities for private sector entities, and limited mitigation authority for state and local enforcement through a pilot program. Expanding the aperture of entities that possess counter-drone authorities conserves limited federal resources and empowers federal agencies to prioritize protecting the most sensitive assets and operations.

We recognize the complexities presented by employing counter-drone technologies, and support placing reasonable and tailored guardrails on expanded counter-drone use to address important policy goals including protecting privacy and civil rights and liberties, ensuring aviation safety, addressing spectrum interference, continuing federal oversight of the national airspace, and allowing lawful commercial activity. However, policymakers should ensure that any counter-drone framework minimizes red tape for law enforcement and the private sector while also being practical to implement. Otherwise, the benefits of expanded detection and mitigation authorities will not be realized.

Ensuring public safety and the security of the national airspace is a priority for the U.S. Chamber, and a tailored, comprehensive counter-drone framework plays a significant role in achieving that objective. We urge you to act on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jordan Crenshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jordan" being more prominent than the last name "Crenshaw".

Jordan Crenshaw
Senior Vice President
Chamber Technology Engagement Center
U.S. Chamber of Commerce