



June 13, 2023

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chair
Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

RE: Support for S. 1631, the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023.

Dear Senator Peters:

The Security Industry Association (SIA) is a nonprofit trade association that represents more than 1,400 companies providing a broad range of safety and security-focused products and services in the U.S. Among many sectors, our members include the leading providers of both UAS and Counter-UAS (CUAS) technologies as well as companies that provide related products and services to government agencies and critical infrastructure operators.

On behalf of SIA and our member companies, including the SIA CUAS Working Group, we strongly support S. 1631, the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023.

The current threat landscape is ever evolving, and we continue to see prime examples amplified worldwide of how UAS technology can be easily weaponized, particularly against critical infrastructure and mass public gatherings. We must act now to ensure that the U.S. does not fall behind in preparedness and that the right tools are in place to mitigate potential threats.

We support extending the authorities first provided to specific federal agencies in the Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018. However, this framework is simply inadequate to address today's needs. In more than five years since it was created, both the threat potential from hostile use of UAS as well as the available CUAS technologies have changed rapidly and continue to evolve on a daily basis.

Without further action, the legal and regulatory uncertainties surrounding CUAS authorities will remain, which limit the full potential of CUAS technology and hinder its adoption for security and life safety purposes. Among other provisions to renew and strengthen these existing authorities, S. 1631 would establish an initial foundational framework for allowing state and local entities, as well as private-sector operators of critical infrastructure, to use CUAS technologies in a safe and legal manner.

Our industry's continued U.S. growth supports the steady creation of job opportunities for American engineers, researchers, technicians, installers and other support personnel. Beyond simply creating jobs here at home, it spurs innovation – evident in today's CUAS solutions – which improves critical security and public safety measures protecting the lives of everyday Americans, home and abroad.

SIA and our members stand ready to provide any additional information and support you and your staff may need as you consider these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Erickson
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