FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES
U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

Priority 1: Enact the Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Act (S. 4744 and H.R. 5315) from the 117th Congress. 118th Congress House and Senate versions of the DIIG Act are expected to be introduced imminently.

AUVSI has long advocated that the DIIG Act be enacted into law. The commonsense legislation would enhance U.S. competitiveness by spurring investment in the U.S. drone industry and worker training, and also provides tangible benefits for infrastructure inspection.

Priority 2: Support domestic UAS companies.

Domestic UAS manufacturers have struggled to compete against foreign subsidized competition, which hinders the availability of American-made UAS on the market and harms the potential for workforce growth and investment. Accordingly, the U.S. government must foster a more competitive and fair playing field for U.S.-based manufacturers.

Bolstering new manufacturing capabilities and the workforce will require infrastructure and capital expenditures. Providing tax incentives and other mechanisms to spur that spending would accelerate growth and development that would have otherwise been delayed or denied. Manufacturers tax credits for the production and sale of certain UAS equipment produced and sold in the U.S. would be a huge benefit to the industry and its competitiveness and would decrease a reliance on UAS from foreign nations, notably China.

AUVSI requests that Congress creates a tax incentive program for UAS manufacturing modeled after the Solar Energy Manufacturing for America Act (SEMA), or modeled after language included in the House’s Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021 (America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act of 2022) and the Senate’s United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) on semiconductors and other technologies. This should be created in coordination with the House Ways and Means Committee for ultimate inclusion in the tax title that they produce for inclusion in the FAA Reauthorization.

Priority 4: Enact the National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Initiative Act.

The enactment of H.R. 9376 from the 117th Congress would be highly beneficial to the UAS industry. The bill was thoroughly vetted by and included feedback from industry and AUVSI. The legislation provides for a coordinated federal initiative through the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy across federal research agencies to accelerate unmanned aircraft systems civilian research and development for economic and national security. The bill also ensures U.S. leadership in UAS and AAM by supporting systems research and development activities for Fiscal Years 2023-2027.

Access to rare earth driven components is an issue we frequently hear about when we ask domestic UAS manufacturers how to level the playing field -- specifically with manufacturers that are subsidized by their country’s governments, like DJI.

AUVSI encourages the enactment of H.R. 8981 from the 117th Congress. It would be highly beneficial to the UAS industry by helping ensure the availability of critical materials that support the manufacture of UAS and their components.