

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Minority Whip
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Minority Leader McCarthy and Minority Whip Scalise:

We write in strong support of H.R. 5315, the bipartisan *Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant (DIIG) Act*, and respectfully request that the bill be added to the House floor schedule. The DIIG Act addresses the urgent critical infrastructure inspection backlog our nation faces today, while also investing in the drone workforce of tomorrow.

The bill's purpose is twofold. First, it would authorize the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to provide competitive grants to state, tribal, and local governments to use secure small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to perform critical infrastructure inspections. Drones provide states with a safe and cost effective way to identify and repair critical infrastructure problems in early stages, saving money, time, and preventing needless consumer and worker injuries and death.

Second, the bill would invest in our nation's future workforce by authorizing USDOT competitive grants for workforce training and education at institutions of higher education, including community colleges. This would position current and future workers to capitalize on the fast-growing drone economy, and help to cultivate a diverse workforce. To date, over 90 institutions have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration as [UAS-Collegiate Training Initiative Schools](#). This bill would nurture a dynamic workforce - ready to adapt to the technological advancements of the future.

The DIIG Act passed out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by a bipartisan vote of 54-4 on April 28th. We hope you join us in supporting the DIIG Act by adding it to the House floor schedule as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National League of Cities (NLC)
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI)
Commercial Drone Alliance (CDA)
NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association
Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance, Inc (NUAIR)
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Kansas UAS Joint Task Force
Texas Association of Counties
San Bernardino County

Cc:
The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Sam Graves