



DOT BVLOS NPRM Press Conference Remarks

Lisa Ellman, Commercial Drone Alliance

Good morning everyone! I'm Lisa Ellman, the CEO of the Commercial Drone Alliance. We represent the leading innovators in the U.S. commercial drone marketplace.

Thank you to Secretary Duffy and Administrator Bedford for inviting us to join you in marking this historic moment.

Our industry has been waiting for this day for quite awhile now, and we could not be more excited.

The government and industry leaders gathered here today share a common goal: To bring the incredible benefits of drones to communities across the country.

We all understand that pioneering these innovative aviation technologies is vital for our economy, safety, and national security.

Drones have become critical tools for so many Americans.

Farmers save time and money spraying crops, line workers safely inspect infrastructure, police departments respond to emergencies more quickly, and patients gain easier access to their medicines—all with today's drone technology.

This industry is creating jobs and spurring economic growth for the country.

Yet while the technology has rapidly advanced over the last decade, our regulatory framework in the U.S. has failed to keep pace.

Drone operators must navigate a labyrinth of ill-suited regulations designed for crewed aircraft, placing an artificial ceiling on innovation and hampering progress.

In the meantime, we have seen our global peers and adversaries surge ahead in the deployment of commercial drone technology.

This is a threat to American security and aviation innovation, two areas where we have consistently led the world, and it underscores the urgent need for us to modernize our regulations to regain our competitive edge and safeguard our national interests.

We are so grateful that the White House recognized these challenges in its recent Executive Orders on Unleashing American Drone Dominance and Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty.

And today, we take the next step together in establishing American leadership in drone technology.

With today's proposal, the domestic drone marketplace gains certainty around what business success will look like in this new era.

Investors who sat on the sidelines can now see proof that the federal government indeed supports the use of this critical technology.

And American communities nationwide can start benefitting from the next generation of aviation.

The release of this proposal is a long-awaited milestone.

But from the industry perspective, our collective work is just beginning.

We will be working diligently over the next several weeks to provide our perspective and feedback as part of the rulemaking process.

Our hope is that the final rule will accelerate the expansion of commercial and public safety drone operations throughout the United States, while enhancing the safety and transparency of the national airspace.

Secretary Duffy, the Commercial Drone Alliance appreciates your leadership and prioritization of commercial drone integration efforts.

We look forward to working with partners across the federal government, and with all relevant stakeholders, to restore our global leadership in this game-changing technology.

Thank you.