



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)

- **Background:** Safety is the attractions industry's top priority. Unauthorized UAS that are intentionally or inadvertently flown over or near fixed-site rides and attractions are a hazard to the safety of guests and to the integrity of rides and attractions. The number of UAS in the United States has increased substantially – the FAA estimates that by 2024 approximately 2.3 million UAS will be registered to fly in U.S. airspace. As the recreational and commercial use of UAS proliferates, this risk to the attractions industry increases substantially.

- **Issue:** In 2016 (P.L. 114-190) and 2018 (P.L. 115-254), Congress required the FAA to establish a process to allow certain fixed-site facilities including amusement parks - to petition the FAA to prohibit or restrict the operation of unauthorized UAS above or in close proximity to their property.

IAAPA supported these provisions to enhance the safety of the millions of guests who frequent these attractions annually from the potential safety hazards caused by unauthorized UAS flown over their property and in close proximity to rides and guests. However, the FAA has yet to follow Congress' requirements by implementing this program.

The House-passed FAA reauthorization bill, Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, H.R. 3935, included a provision, supported by IAAPA, requiring the FAA to initiate a rule prohibiting or restricting

the flight of unauthorized Unmanned Aircraft Systems in the airspace above certain fixed site facilities by March 1, 2024.

- **Position:** IAAPA continues to advocate for prevention of unauthorized drones above fixed site amusement parks and expanded federal, state, and local law enforcement authority to detect and mitigate such flight should it occur. Doing so creates a safe or secure environment for our guests and employees.

We continue to actively communicate with Congress and the FAA about the need for developing the Application for Designation process and educating members about the safety hazards associated with unauthorized UAS flying above amusement parks.

Congress should pass a long-term FAA reauthorization bill with provisions requiring FAA to implement its process to restrict airspace above critical infrastructure, including fixed site amusement parks. Congress should also include critical Counter-UAS provisions, such as those in the bi-partisan Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023 (S.1631/H.R. 4333). IAAPA also believes limited counter UAS authority is needed to protect park guests, rides, and guests.

Global HQ

4155 West Taft Vineland
Road, Orlando, FL 32837

Phone: +1 321-319-7600

Fax: +1 321-319-7690

E-mail: IAAPA@IAAPA.org