



May 13, 2021

Mr. Kei Koizumi, Acting Director  
Dr. Eric Lander, Director Nominee  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Acting Director Koizumi and Director Nominee Lander:

The Commercial Drone Alliance (CDA)<sup>1</sup> respectfully requests that the White House, at the earliest opportunity, hold a Summit on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or drones)<sup>2</sup> with federal government officials from various agencies and commercial UAS industry stakeholders to discuss important issues and challenges facing the UAS industry, including those with respect to expanded UAS operations and the implementation of UAS Traffic Management (UTM) systems.

The CDA has worked for years with federal government officials, including those from the Executive Office of the President and the broader interagency, industry stakeholders, and others to promote solutions that enable the safe and secure integration of UAS into our National Airspace System (NAS). However, despite the efforts of many people and organizations, the United States is at risk of falling behind other countries in the development and implementation of a comprehensive regulatory regime and technological platform to support expanded UAS operations and their integration into the NAS.

Commercial drones can provide countless public benefits and essential services to the American public, including by delivering critical supplies, life-saving medicines, and commercial products, assisting with fire, public safety, and natural disaster response, inspecting and monitoring infrastructure, and serving isolated, quarantined, and homebound people, among other benefits. Importantly, commercial UAS can provide these enormous benefits and more in a manner that is environmentally responsible. Moreover, the commercial drone industry has

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<sup>1</sup> The CDA is an independent non-profit organization led by key leaders in the commercial drone and advanced air mobility industries. The CDA brings together commercial drone end-users, manufacturers, service providers, advanced air mobility companies, drone security companies, and vertical markets including oil and gas, precision agriculture, construction, security, communications technology, infrastructure, newsgathering, filmmaking, and more. The CDA works with all levels of government to collaborate on policies for industry growth and seeks to educate the public on the safe and responsible use of commercial drones to achieve economic benefits and humanitarian gains. Learn more at [www.commercialdronealliance.org](http://www.commercialdronealliance.org).

<sup>2</sup> The CDA supports the use of non-gendered language to refer to drones that encourages diversity and inclusion in this critical and fast-growing field of emerging technology. We applaud the Federal Aviation Administration for tasking its Drone Advisory Committee with evaluating options to promote language that reflects a more inclusive approach. The CDA looks forward to supporting that effort.

significant economic potential for our economy, translating to high-quality jobs for the American people.

These countless public benefits, however, are in jeopardy of not being realized on a broad scale, as is America's leadership in aviation and innovation, if the United States does not move forward quickly with the safe and secure integration of UAS into the NAS.

High-level political leadership from the Biden-Harris Administration is necessary for UAS integration to move forward in a timely way. A White House Summit bringing together a diverse array of federal government and commercial UAS industry stakeholders to discuss the issues and challenges facing UAS integration, expanded UAS operations, and UTM would be a significant step to moving forward on these critical issues. In particular, implementation of UTM can build on Remote Identification efforts to extend to Beyond Visual Line of Sight operations, but will require input from and coordination among various federal agencies, including national security and law enforcement agencies. The White House is best positioned to convene key federal decision makers and drive a constructive conversation with industry stakeholders.

The CDA stands ready and willing to work with your office to facilitate and assist with such a Summit. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Ellman  
Executive Director  
Commercial Drone Alliance