

Question for the Record from Representative Troy Nehls for Sgt. Dooley, Mr. Feddersen, Dr. Wallace, and Dr. Cahill
“Unmanned and Unchecked: Confronting the Rising Threat of Malicious Drone Use in America”
September 16, 2025

1. Thank you all for your testimony today. As we've heard, there are significant concerns about increasing drone activity at smaller public venues and large non-sporting event gatherings that fall below the FAA's 30,000-seat threshold and don't qualify for automatic sporting event flight restrictions. These venues face the same safety risks we've discussed—from both malicious actors and unintentional safety hazards from hobbyists.

Given your expertise in this field, how do you believe we can address these security gaps at smaller venues and non-sporting events while ensuring we don't create unnecessary barriers or restrictions that would harm legitimate commercial drone operations, including delivery services, infrastructure inspection, emergency response, and other beneficial uses of drone technology?

What specific policy mechanisms or technological solutions would you recommend that could distinguish between authorized commercial operations and potential security threats, allowing legitimate drone commerce to flourish while protecting public safety at these currently unprotected venues?