



THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AIRSPACE DEFENSE ACT

Summary

This bill would:

- **Authorize** critical infrastructure operators to detect, track, and neutralize unauthorized drones operating over protected sites.
- **Establish** a grant program to facilitate the purchasing, installation, and operation of federally approved c-UAS equipment.
- **Direct** the Secretary of Homeland Security and other authorities to oversee a requisite training and certification program for private operators to exercise c-UAS authorities.

Background

Previous legislation has expanded state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement access to counter unmanned aerial systems (c-UAS) equipment. However, modern drone threats move quickly, and law enforcement agencies often cannot respond fast enough to protect critical infrastructure sites from unauthorized UAS activity.

The private operators of critical infrastructure sites take substantial security steps to maintain a capable presence, but they themselves currently do not have c-UAS authority. This creates a gap resulting in unacceptable vulnerabilities to U.S. water systems, nuclear sites, power plants, pipelines, and more.

Providing the operators of critical infrastructure sites the authority to further protect their private facilities from unauthorized drone threats will eliminate this vulnerability at facilities our nation relies on every day. This bill will better enable private sites to work alongside both SLTT law enforcement and the federal government through a training and certification program, and it will ensure only approved and reliable c-UAS equipment is deployed at these sites with fully trained operators.

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