ADDRESSING THE GROWING USE OF DRONES AND PROTECTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Government statistics show that personal and commercial use of drones in the United States is growing at a rapid rate. In fact, **there are currently more drones registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) than piloted aircrafts**. Each day there are new examples that highlight how ill-equipped our country’s laws are when it comes to grappling with the new safety and security challenges that have accompanied the increased use of drones.

BENEFITS OF DRONES

Drones are becoming an increasingly valuable tool for manufacturers in a variety of applications:

- Better Inspections
- Increased Surveillance
- Emergency Response

It is critical that these beneficial uses and other commercial applications are preserved as well as the public’s ability to use drones for recreational purposes.

USING DRONES SAFELY AND SECURELY

If not used responsibly drones can also pose safety and security risks. To help safeguard chemical facilities and their surrounding communities, policymakers must act to prevent the unauthorized use of drones for illicit purposes, including trespassing.

The federal government and some states have attempted to enhance requirements for drones but more still needs to be done. Current rules and guidance have fallen short and do not adequately address the safety and security risks posed by the unauthorized use of drones near or over chemical facilities.

CONGRESS MUST ACT NOW

We strongly urge Congress to adopt policies as part of the FAA reauthorization bill that prevent—

- Unauthorized surveillance of facility operations and personnel, storage locations and movement of chemicals
- Intentional and unintentional harm to people and/or damage to a chemical plant