



Public Affairs Secures Major Drone Safety Victory for U.S. Parks

IAAPA's Public Affairs team achieved significant progress in strengthening federal protections for U.S. fixed-site amusement parks as unauthorized drone activity continues to pose growing safety and security risks. Through sustained engagement with Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), IAAPA is advancing solutions that support both long-term airspace protections and stronger response tools when drone activity threatens guests, employees, or operations.

A key component of this effort is IAAPA's work with the FAA on Section 2209 rulemaking, which would establish a formal process for eligible fixed-site parks to petition for permanent airspace restrictions over their facilities. If implemented, Section 2209 would provide parks with a meaningful pathway to prevent unauthorized drone activity in sensitive environments where safety, security, and high visitor volumes require additional safeguards.

In parallel, IAAPA worked with Congress to advance and pass legislation that strengthens response capabilities by enabling fixed-site parks to coordinate more effectively with local law enforcement to detect and mitigate unauthorized drone operations. This legislative outcome helps establish clearer authority and coordination mechanisms to address drones that may pose risks in airspace over park facilities—supporting real-time response while reinforcing protections for guests, employees, and operations.

Together, these federal advancements strengthen the industry's ability to both prevent and respond to unauthorized drone threats. As implementation and rulemaking move forward, IAAPA will remain engaged with federal agencies and policymakers to ensure the final framework reflects the operational realities of fixed-site amusement parks and continues to enhance safety, security, and operational continuity across the industry.