

Key Talking Points: Section 1709 Audit

- My name is [NAME], and I live in [CITY OR ZIP CODE]. I am asking you to make sure that a national security agency like the Department of Homeland Security carries out a review of DJI and Autel drones by December.
- Share your personal reasons for caring about this issue, how you use drones for your business, hobby, public safety or research. Specifics are always helpful, such as information about specific projects you have worked on, successful missions, how many people you employ/how you support your community, etc.
- Congress passed a law last year, the NDAA, that required this review take place, so asking that it be completed quickly is just asking them to finish what they have already been directed to do.
- This is important because if the security review is not done in time, it would prevent DJI and Autel, two of the leading drone manufacturers, from bringing new products to the U.S. market and could possibly ground the drones people already own too.
- Restrictions like these would harm public safety, business, research and even hurt those who just fly drones for fun in our community by leading to rising costs and product shortages for all users.
- Share what it would mean for you – how a ban on DJI or Autel products would impact your business, hobby, public safety or research.
- Beyond just me personally, for public safety efforts, it would put even lives on the line as many agencies have built successful drone programs with DJI or Autel drones.
- According to one study, 67% of small businesses that use drones would be forced to close if they could no longer use them.
- The study also found that hundreds of thousands of Americans across the country would lose their jobs, hurting the American economy.
- If you take any personal security precautions with your drone, such as flying in Local Data Mode, clearing your data regularly, etc., make sure to mention those abilities.
- Before you leave, thank them for their time and remind them to ask DHS or another national security agency to conduct the audit!