

COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN POLICY MAKING

By following this plan, lawmakers around the country can ensure that their state or city is advancing the use of trustworthy, secure systems made in the U.S. in a responsible, measured manner.

1.) Recognize that non-secure drones pose an undue risk to national security.

- Non-secure drones pose a serious threat to U.S. national security, potentially exposing sensitive data about critical infrastructure and key military sites.
- China's national security laws require PRC drone companies to provide the Chinese government with whatever information they gather.

The Federal Government has already recognized these national security risks:

- In 2019, the United States Congress prohibited the Department of Defense (DoD) from purchasing drones made by companies based in China in Section 848 of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- In 2022, in Section 817 of the Fiscal Year 2023 NDAA, Congress expanded Section 848 to prohibit private companies working with the DoD from using insecure drones in the performance of federal contracts.
- In 2023, Congress passed the American Security Drone Act in the Fiscal Year 2024 NDAA, prohibiting all federal agencies from purchasing or operating insecure drones, including those produced in China.
- A Homeland Security Intelligence Bulletin noted that DJI, the largest Chinese drone manufacturer, "has targeted a number of U.S. companies in the critical infrastructure and law enforcement sectors to market its UAS" and "the Chinese government is likely using information acquired from DJI systems as a way to target assets."¹
- In 2024, the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI released a memo detailing threats that PRC drones pose to U.S. national security and urging organizations that buy or operate drones to adopt proven security recommendations.

2.) Institute a reasonable transition period.

- Chinese drones account for 92% of the first responder market.²
- Departments and other covered users should no longer purchase any new Chinese drones but need a reasonable transition period of 2-4 years to continue using current systems, derive remaining value of life cycle, and acquire fleets of new secure drones.
- AUVSI does not support policies that immediately ground current public safety drone programs.

3.) Provide funding for replacements.

- According to a survey by Droneresponders, 88% of first responder agencies would prefer to use U.S. drones; however, cost is a significant barrier to transitioning away from Chinese drones to U.S. drones because U.S. and allied manufacturers are not subsidized by the government, unlike Chinese companies.
- Lawmakers should supply funding to departments both for the replacement of current systems and for the development of new programs through the purchase of secure drones and associated training.

1.) <https://info.publicintelligence.net/ICE-DJI-China.pdf>

2.) https://www.droneresponders.org/_files/ugd/ef6978_d2da05a859fa4752a5895195539b230b.pdf