



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

VAI Applauds Senate Commerce Committee Approval of Bryan Bedford to Lead FAA

Calls on full Senate to confirm without delay to ensure ongoing modernization, innovation.

Alexandria, Va. (Jun. 25, 2025) – Vertical Aviation International (VAI) congratulates Bryan Bedford on his approval by the US Senate Commerce Committee to serve as the next FAA administrator. VAI urges the full Senate to move swiftly toward final confirmation of this nomination and provide the agency with the stable, permanent leadership it needs during this period of rapidly evolving aviation technology.

“From modernizing air traffic control to integrating unmanned aircraft systems (UASs, or drones) into the National Airspace System (NAS), the FAA faces a critical moment,” says Mike Hertzendorf, COO of VAI. “Bryan Bedford’s industry expertise and leadership make him exceptionally well-qualified to guide the agency through this period of rapid innovation and operational complexity.”

As the FAA advances long-overdue reforms to safely integrate drones and other new entrants into low-altitude airspace, strong leadership backed by Senate approval is essential to ensure that policy keeps pace with technology while maintaining the highest safety standards.

“VAI urges the Senate to confirm Mr. Bedford without delay and provide the FAA with the leadership necessary to modernize, innovate, and uphold the safety of the NAS,” Hertzendorf added.

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Vertical Aviation International (VAI), formerly Helicopter Association International (HAI), is the world’s leading membership association dedicated to the vertical aviation industry, which encompasses all aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing. Throughout its 76 years of fueling industry growth through connection, advocacy, safety, education, and support for its members’ success, VAI has leveraged the power of vertical flight to strengthen communities worldwide. The association welcomes all facets of the vertical aviation industry, including manufacturers, operators, suppliers and vendors, pilots and maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals. For more information about VAI, please visit: <https://verticalavi.org>.

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