

McCormack

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Full Committee

Nominations Hearing

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 2:15 P.M.

REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Ryan McCormack

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SENATOR JERRY MORAN (R-KS)

1. Can you provide an update on the status and anticipated timeline for the issuance of Advanced Digital Construction Management Systems Grants?

Answer: The FY 24 ADCMS awards have been reviewed and approved. Some have executed grant agreements and have obligated funds; others are still working to finalize their grant agreements. The Department anticipates releasing the next ADCMS NOFO in the first half of 2026.

SENATOR TED BUDD (R-NC)

Following the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act and the President's Executive Order calling for a new rule governing drone Beyond Visual Line of Sight (or BVLOS) operations, the FAA and TSA jointly published a draft rule in August. One of several issues the draft rule covers is the aircraft certification process. Recently, the FAA has adopted a more flexible and performance-based approach for drone certification called Criteria for Making 44807 Determinations, or CMD. Unfortunately, the draft rule embraces much of the prescriptive and unworkable requirements that the FAA abandoned several years ago trying to use the standard aircraft Type Certification process for drones.

1. If confirmed, how will you use your new position at DOT to push for streamlined, proven certification processes like CMD and resist efforts to move us backwards in a final rule governing BVLOS operations for drones?

Answer: Enabling BVLOS operations for drones is critical. If confirmed, I will assist the Secretary and the Administrator of the FAA in advancing the objectives set forth in President Trump's Executive Order on Unleashing American Drone Dominance, which directs the Department to accelerate safe, routine BVLOS operations and reduce regulatory barriers to drone integration. Consistent with that policy, I will work to streamline certification and approval processes, promote innovation, and ensure timely rulemaking that strengthens U.S. leadership in drone technology.