



March 16, 2021

House Appropriations - Education and Environment Division  
Committee Chairman David Monson  
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From: Anthony Dudas, Airport Director, Williston Basin International Airport, Train ND  
Northwest Advisory Board Member

Subject: Support for TrainND Specific UAS Training Appropriation in SB 2018

To the Honorable Chairman Monson and Committee,

The State of North Dakota has placed significant investment into the Vantis network to allow civilian unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to operate beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) in the same airspace as manned aircraft.

I believe it is critical the State make continued investment into Vantis as well as training individuals within the industry to operate within its network. TrainND Northwest is uniquely situated in the heart of the energy industry, which I believe will be an early adopter of this technology to enhance efficiency and be a value add to their business in North Dakota.

In order to take full advantage of this infrastructure investment, training qualified UAS operators is paramount. The potential career opportunities BVLOS presents are exponential, including pilots, aircraft maintenance, and more. BVLOS operations will take place in the same airspace as manned aircraft which will require significant safety and regulatory training. It will be very important to the industries adopting UAS technology to have qualified and knowledgeable personnel available to perform the necessary operations safely and efficiently.

I ask that you support TrainND Northwest's one-time appropriation request of \$1 million to make this training program a reality and support ongoing job creation in the energy industry.

Respectfully,

*Anthony Dudas*

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