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North Dakota UAS Council Support for SB2018

Chairman Vigesaa and Members of the North Dakota House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Dakota UAS Council to express our strong support for SB2018, a critical piece of legislation that provides essential funding for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. This bill represents a significant investment in our state's future, particularly in the rapidly growing Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry.

North Dakota has long been a national leader in UAS innovation, research, and commercialization. With the assistance of the Department of Commerce, our state has built an ecosystem that attracts cutting-edge technology companies, fosters workforce development, and creates high-paying jobs in an industry poised for exponential growth. According to Job Service North Dakota, there are dozens of new job opportunities currently available for UAS experts in North Dakota. Additionally, for almost a decade, support for the North Dakota Department of Commerce has helped the state outpace UAS job creation nearly ten times more than professional projections suggest. SB2018 ensures that this momentum continues by allocating the necessary resources to advance key UAS initiatives, strengthen our competitive edge, and solidify North Dakota's position as the nation's UAS epicenter.

The funding provided by this bill will support UAS infrastructure, research partnerships, and workforce training programs, all of which are crucial for keeping North Dakota at the forefront of this evolving industry. By investing in these initiatives, the Legislature is not only securing economic growth but also reinforcing our state's role in national security, precision agriculture, and autonomous aviation. The benefits of this bill extend beyond the UAS sector, driving innovation across multiple industries and attracting talent and investment to our state.

I urge you to support SB2018 and reaffirm North Dakota's commitment to maintaining its leadership in UAS excellence. This bill is an investment in our economy, our workforce, and our future. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Very respectfully,

Matt Dunlevy
President & CEO
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