



Airport Association of North Dakota

Ryan Riesinger - President Anthony Dudas - Vice President

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P.O. Box 2845, Fargo, North Dakota 58108-2845

March 11, 2021

**RE: Testimony to House Appropriations Committee - Government Operations Division on
SB 2006 – Aeronautics Commission Budget**

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the committee,

I am Ryan Riesinger, President of the Airport Association of North Dakota (AAND) and Executive Director of the Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority (GFK). I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today. AAND is the professional organization for North Dakota Airports and it serves to promote airports and aviation across the state. GFK consistently ranks as one of the busiest airports in the country and is the proud home of the University of North Dakota (UND) John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. I am here today on behalf of AAND and GFK to express our support of SB 2006 and its amendments.

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission (NDAC) is vitally important to our State's Airports. Their mission is to serve the public by providing economic and technical assistance for the aviation community while ensuring the safe and cost-effective advancement of aviation in North Dakota. The Commission and its staff successfully accomplish this mission every day, and our statewide system of airports is stronger because of it.

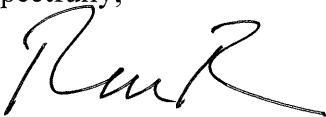
As our airports plan for future development and growth the funding needs are projected to be significant. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has developed a 5-year overall capital improvement program for the airports in North Dakota and the amount for 2021-2025 is

\$395 million. Our airports work cooperatively with the FAA to maximize federal grant participation, but additional investment from the State and local airport sponsors will be required to meet these forecasts. We certainly support any and all additional funding for the NDAC as we have confidence that it will be administered in the best interest of airports in the State.

At GFK, we were very pleased to see the amendment in the bill for an allocation of \$5,000,000 from the Strategic Investment and Improvement Fund (SIIF) in order to complete the final phase of the UND apron reconstruction. This portion of the apron is in poor condition, and its reconstruction will greatly improve safety and efficiency for years to come. We are thankful for this allocation and will gladly facilitate the project, in cooperation with the NDAC.

In closing, AAND and GFK are supportive of SB 2006 as amended. We respectfully request that the committee provide a do pass on the bill. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and will take any questions the committee may have for me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Riesinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ryan Riesinger
President, Airport Association of North Dakota
Executive Director, Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority