



Airport Association of North Dakota

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RE: Testimony to Government & Veterans Affairs Committee on HB 1146 – Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Amend & Reenact

Chairman Kasper and members of the committee,

I am Ryan Riesinger, Vice-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 here today. AAND is the professional organization for North Dakota Airports and it serves to promote airports, aviation, and safety across the state. I am here today on behalf of AAND and GFK to express our support of the amendments and reenactment of HB 1146.

The State of North Dakota and its emergency service agencies are very fortunate to be moving towards a new, state of the art, interoperable radio network. This new system will dramatically improve communications and safety for all users in the near future. In the last Legislative Session, a bill was passed to provide a State cost share of \$1,500.00 per radio to Cities and Counties to transition to the new system. While the cost share is very helpful, unfortunately the language specifying Cities and Counties limits many emergency service responders, including non-governmental medical/ambulance services, township/volunteer fire departments, and Airports from participating in the cost share.

North Dakota commercial service airports have emergency services for fire, medical, law enforcement, and security response on airport properties. The airport emergency services may be part of the local city government or provided separately by a political subdivision within the state, often operated by an Airport Authority. The airport emergency services require statewide

interoperable radio network communications with public safety answering points, fire, medical, and law enforcement for mutual aid coordination and response, on and off airport property. The State cost share opportunity from the information technology department is critical to all North Dakota emergency services providers to support the acquisition of the new radio communication equipment needed to access the statewide interoperable radio network. The amended language in HB 1146 will effectively allow for all providers to participate in the radio cost share.

In closing, AAND and its members are supportive of HB 1146 as amended. We respectfully request that the committee provide a do pass on HB 1146. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I 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 stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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