



**Testimony to Senate Transportation Committee  
On SB 2149  
Greg Haug, Airport Director, Bismarck Airport  
January 21, 2021**

Dear Chairman Clemens and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2149. I am Greg Haug, Director of the Bismarck Airport. On behalf of the Bismarck Airport, I am writing to voice support for SB 2149 and the language it provides to allow North Dakota airport operators the ability to enter into contracts with Transportation Network Companies (TNC).

Prior to COVID-19, passenger boarding numbers at the Bismarck Airport showed strong growth. 2019 was Bismarck's 10<sup>th</sup> straight year of record enplanements and 2020 was on pace to be the 11<sup>th</sup>. During this growth, we saw an influx of taxi and shuttle services coming to the airport to provide services to airport users. Along with more taxi's and shuttle's we also saw an increase in TNC operators like Uber and Lyft. Even during the pandemic, we are seeing taxis, shuttles and TNC operations.

After seeing the increase in use of taxi's and TNC's in recent years while Bismarck's passenger numbers continued to climb, Bismarck Airport staff explored instituting a minimal fee for drop offs and pick-ups by taxi's, shuttles, limos and TNCs. Bismarck Airport does not currently charge any ground transportation companies even though it is common practice at all airports to establish fees and charges upon the commercial operators providing services at the airport when it is deemed to be reasonable or operationally necessary. In 2017 we felt the business climate was healthy enough to withstand a minimal charge for all ground transportation companies doing business at the Airport. However, when we started looking into establishing the new fee we found that the current law did not allow airports to contract specifically with TNC's for operations at an airport and we had to put that initiative on hold. Bismarck Airport would still like to see the current law changed so that Airports have the ability to establish a business relationship with all similarly situated ground transportation companies.

In conclusion, the creation of TNCs has resulted in new opportunities for airports and they have expanded the menu of choices for ground transportation services available to airport customers. We view this as good healthy competition. Airports are vital to the state's economy and this bill would assure that commercial airports throughout the state have the ability to manage and control the operation of all ground transportation companies providing service to the users of the state's air service airports.

Again, I appreciate the Opportunity to provide testimony of SB 2149 and ask that you provide a "do pass" recommendation.

Respectfully,

  
Gregory B. Haug  
Airport Director