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Testimony of Matt Dunlevy to the North Dakota House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

Chairman Vigesaa and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1519 and the allocation of funding to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and autonomous technologies projects led by state agencies in North Dakota.

UAS and autonomous technologies have the potential to bring numerous benefits to the state of North Dakota. From agriculture and natural resource management to public safety and infrastructure inspection, mechanized autonomy has the ability to increase efficiency and effectiveness in various industries.

In agriculture, UAS can provide farmers with real-time information about their crops, allowing them to make informed decisions about planting and harvest times, as well as identifying areas of their fields that may require additional attention. In the oil and gas industry, UAS can help inspect pipelines, reducing the need for workers to physically inspect these structures and improving safety.

Additionally, through this bill, autonomous technology can be used in greater volume for search and rescue missions, helping to locate missing individuals more quickly and effectively. Similar autonomous methods can also be used to monitor natural disasters, such as wildfires or floods, providing critical information to first responders and allowing them to respond more effectively.

Given these benefits, I believe it is important that North Dakota allocate more funding to UAS projects led by state agencies. By doing so, North Dakota will not only improve the quality of services offered to its citizens, but it will also multiply the positive effects of the Vantis network, cementing its position as a role model to the nation.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I strongly encourage the appropriation committee to support House Bill 1519. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Very respectfully,

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