



Tau Drones

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Monday, March 20th, 2023

Testimony of Karthik Balaji to the North Dakota House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

Chairman Vigeesa 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 systems have brought about increased safety and efficiency in many industrial sectors including agriculture, energy, public safety and transportation. UAS have enabled increased means of inspection and risk assessment across sectors while maintaining real time to near real time data exchange between entities, along with recorded evidence. On the other hand, autonomous systems are creating marvels across the board, reducing operational costs and increasing efficiency. Together these technologies have tremendous potential for symbiotic growth in the state of North Dakota, and in the process bring great technological advances.

Tau Drones today specializes in infrastructure health and data analysis. At Tau Drones we focus specifically on marrying autonomy with UAS technology, using artificial intelligence and data analytics to offer better infrastructure inspections in a scalable fashion. Tau Drones is continuously looking for better means of automation in the field of UAS data processing and flight. The House bill of 1519 will greatly enable our research & development as well as operational capabilities.

The benefits for the state as well as private sector brought forth by this House Bill is numerous given that North Dakota is at forefront of UAS technology. By funding such (technological) autonomy initiatives in UAS, North Dakota will ensure great strides in bringing in more innovative services, manufacturing and jobs to the state. 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.

Sincerely,

Karthik Balaji

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