

March 22, 2023

RE: North Dakota HB 1519

To whom it may concern:

As the CEO of Vigilant Aerospace Systems, I am writing in support of North Dakota House Bill 1519.

Vigilant Aerospace is a technology company with offices and employees in North Dakota and Oklahoma. Vigilant provides airspace management and safety software for remotely piloted aircraft.

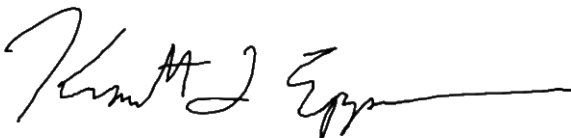
The company's technology is based on two licensed NASA patents and helps uncrewed aircraft to maintain safe distances from other traffic, which is required to fly beyond the sight of the remote pilot. The system is specifically designed to help enable uncrewed aircraft flight corridors and has been used at multiple uncrewed aircraft flight centers throughout the U.S. and in NASA and FAA research programs. The company also has an existing partnership with the Northern Plains UAS Test Site in Grand Forks for use of the system for research.

HB 1519 will enable our region to accelerate economic growth and begin to realize the positive impact that autonomous systems can have on day-to-day operations. As a regional employer and industry leader, we support HB 1519 and its focus on accelerating our region's development of autonomous capabilities for the Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Career and Technical Education, Department of Agriculture, and the Industrial Commission, through grants for programs and pilot projects.

Showing financial support for uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) programs will have a positive impact on small North Dakota businesses and on the state government departments that will benefit from advanced autonomous technology. It will also act as an ongoing symbol of leadership to the UAS industry-at-large, for which North Dakota has become a national leader.

We thank you for considering this testimony in support of HB 1519. If you have any questions, please contact me at [KLEpperson@VigilantAerospace.com](mailto:KLEpperson@VigilantAerospace.com) or by telephone at (701) 730-1177.

Sincerely,



Kraettli L. Epperson  
CEO, Vigilant Aerospace Systems, Inc.