



## HB1519

Senate Transportation Committee

March 23, 2023

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Chair Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Mark Hagerott, and I serve as the Chancellor for the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today in support of HB1519.

HB1519 appropriates state fiscal recovery funds to various state entities for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and autonomous technologies projects. Section 3 provides \$250,000 to the Department of Career & Technical Education (CTE) for a grant to the northwest Train ND workforce training center at Williston State College.

As a former engineer and retired Navy and Afghanistan War veteran, I have worked with semi and autonomous systems. They constitute an emerging technology that can improve multiple sectors of our economy and government service, to include the energy and agriculture industries. As autonomous systems become more central to these leading industries and government, work force training, which is provided by Williston State College and Train ND, will become more urgent. HB1519 will help the North Dakota University System, at Williston, to more rapidly respond to this emerging industry. I recommend a “Do Pass” of HB 1519.

This concludes my testimony, and I will gladly answer any questions from the committee.