



January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

**RE: Testimony to House Agriculture Committee – HB 1429**

Chair Beltz and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, I am submitting this testimony to express concerns regarding the potential negative impacts that this legislation may have on North Dakota's uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) industry.

While the intent to protect private property and agricultural operations from unwarranted intrusion is understandable, the overly restrictive nature of this bill poses several unintended consequences that could hinder technological advancement and operational efficiency of this industry within our state.

**Challenges to Regulatory Consistency and Compliance**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established comprehensive regulations governing the use of unmanned aerial systems to ensure safety and operational consistency across state lines. HB 1429 introduces additional layers of restrictions that may conflict with federal guidelines and has the potential to create confusion and legal complexities for UAS operators who seek to comply with both state and federal laws.

**Adverse Economic Impact on North Dakota's UAS Industry**

North Dakota has been a national leader in UAS research and development, with substantial investments in infrastructure and workforce development to support this emerging industry. Imposing excessive restrictions on UAS operations risks stifling innovation and drives away business and research initiatives that contribute significantly to the state economy.

**Enforcement Challenges and Ambiguities**

The bill's language regarding the definition of "intrusion" and "surveillance" lacks full clarity and could potentially lead to subjective enforcement and legal disputes. Determining whether an uncrewed aircraft has remained over a property or crossed permissible boundaries could pose significant challenges for both law enforcement and UAS operators alike.

**Existing Protections Are Sufficient**

Current laws, including FAA regulations and North Dakota's privacy and trespassing statutes, already provide mechanisms to address concerns related to unauthorized drone operations. Rather than imposing new and potentially burdensome restrictions, efforts should focus on educating stakeholders on existing legal frameworks and best practices.

In summary, while protecting privacy and property rights is essential, House Bill No. 1429 as currently drafted, risks impeding agricultural innovation, economic growth, and regulatory clarity. I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative approaches that balance privacy concerns with the responsible integration of UAS technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Wanner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kyle C. Wanner  
Executive Director  
ND Aeronautics Commission