



February 5th, 2025

RE: Testimony to House Agriculture Committee – HB 1514

Chair Beltz and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, I am submitting this testimony to express concerns about the potential negative impacts of House Bill No. 1514 on North Dakota's aviation industry.

Our primary concern is the bill's reporting and enforcement provisions, which pose significant practical challenges. Encouraging public monitoring of aviation activity without technical expertise could lead to an influx of unverified claims that could strain law enforcement resources and unnecessarily disrupt lawful aircraft operations. Additionally, requiring aviation activities to halt immediately based on suspicion could result in costly and unwarranted disruptions to essential services.

Many of these public reports would likely stem from misunderstandings of normal contrails, which are water vapor trails produced by aircraft engines under specific atmospheric conditions. The appearance and persistence of contrails vary based on factors such as humidity and temperature; some dissipate quickly, while others linger and spread, forming cirrus-like clouds.

While protecting public health and the environment is important, we find it difficult to justify policies that could disrupt lawful aviation operations without clear scientific evidence or credible documentation of a public health or environmental risk. As currently drafted, House Bill No. 1514 creates unnecessary challenges for legal aviation activities in North Dakota.

We respectfully urge legislators to carefully consider these concerns and work to ensure that the operational needs of the aviation industry are not adversely affected by this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Wanner".

Kyle C. Wanner
Executive Director
ND Aeronautics Commission