



January 10, 2025

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Office of the Governor

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1038

Chairman Vigessa and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Governor Armstrong and Lieutenant Governor Strinden, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1038. This legislation represents a critical step forward for North Dakota's leadership in uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) technology and integration.

I especially want to emphasize the significance of the state radar data pathfinder program. The proposed appropriation of \$11 million underscores North Dakota's commitment to advancing UAS technology and ensuring safe, efficient integration into the national airspace. Participating in the pathfinder program allows our state to use the Northern Plains UAS Test Site to evaluate FAA radar's role in safely integrating UAS into the national airspace.

Moreover, investing in this pathfinder program will further elevate North Dakota's position as a hub for UAS innovation. Through this collaboration, North Dakota and the FAA will set the standard for the integration of UAS into the national airspace. The radar data pathfinder program is not just about integrating radar data, it is about shaping the future of UAS operations in North Dakota and the United States.

Our state has the opportunity to lead – not just for today but for decades to come. This program will ensure North Dakota maintains our position at the forefront of UAS innovation by fostering new industry partnerships, advancing cutting-edge research, and attracting commercialization.

We respectfully ask the committee to advance this bill with a do pass recommendation to further solidify North Dakota's reputation as a leader in UAS innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.