



MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FARGO

January 13, 2025

**RE: Testimony to Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division on
SB 2006 to defray the expenses of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Shawn Dobberstein. I am the Executive Director of the Municipal Airport Authority of the City of Fargo. On behalf of the Municipal Airport Authority, I respectfully offer testimony in support of SB 2006.

Airports are constantly dealing with challenges to obtain the funding necessary to complete projects due to lack of federal, state, and local funding. Increasing construction costs present another challenge each year due to inflation which can result in costly delays to complete critical infrastructure projects across the state.

Our airports require significant financial assistance from the State to complete large generational projects like passenger terminal expansion, new passenger terminals, and runway construction/reconstruction projects. Generational projects occur once every 20, 30 or 40 years depending on the life cycle of the respective infrastructure project.

Fargo's Hector International Airport has started construction on a passenger terminal expansion project to our existing terminal that was constructed in 1986. The expansion will add four (4) gates to the terminal for a total of nine (9) is scheduled to be completed in late 2026. The project also includes the expansion of the terminal apron to accommodate aircraft parking, the reconstruction of the existing aircraft parking aprons, and aircraft deicing fluid (glycol) storage and a force main to transport the captured glycol fluid to a treatment location in accordance with State guidelines.

Your support of SB 2006 will ensure the completion of generational projects that will allow our airports to meet the needs of the aviation industry and the traveling public who rely on our State's commercial service airports. The local community cannot fund the entire local share associated with large generational projects alone. The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission continues to be a great financial partner with airports across the State.

On behalf of the Municipal Airport Authority of the City of Fargo, we fully support SB 2006. We respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously support the passage of SB 2006 to support the critical airport infrastructure projects.