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**Letter of Support Regarding HB 1038**

House Appropriations-Education and Environment Committee

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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Chair Nathe and Members of the Appropriations-Education and Environment Committee,

My name is Kyle Armitage, and I serve as the Dean of the Career and Technical Education Division at North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I am here today to support HB 1038, which seeks to fund the Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Replacement Program and the State Radar Data Pathfinder Program.

NDSCS is proud to offer a comprehensive Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) program, preparing students with the advanced skills needed for careers in the rapidly evolving UAS field. This bill provides critical resources to ensure that state-owned UAVs comply with the federal National Defense Authorization Act and the American Security Drone Act of 2023. It also enhances state capabilities by supporting infrastructure, safety, and operational effectiveness through the integration of radar data systems and beyond visual line-of-sight programs.

These investments directly support our mission to prepare students for high-demand careers in the UAS industry while positioning North Dakota as a leader in technology innovation. The initiatives outlined in this bill will expand educational opportunities, ensure operational compliance and safety, and enhance workforce development in our state.

I respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation for HB 1038 and stand ready to answer any questions from the committee.