

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**  
**January 25, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – Roughrider Room**

**North Dakota Department of Transportation**  
**Jeff Horan, Pilot / UAS Project Coordinator**

**SB 2018**

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Jeff Horan, Pilot and UAS Project Coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I'm here to provide information regarding SB 2018.

The USDOT states that there are over 1.7 million Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) currently registered in the United States.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Northern Plains UAS Test Site is deploying UAS technologies through USDOT's Integration Pilot Program (IPP). Recently, the North Dakota Department of Transportation was awarded an extension to the IPP program. The new IPP program is called "BEYOND" and the North Dakota Department of Transportation along with the Northern Plains UAS Test Site are working toward the safe implementation of UAS operations and technologies throughout the State of North Dakota.

Our partnership with Northern Plains UAS Test site is critical in the advancement of UAS operations in North Dakota and to the further development of a state-wide UAS network tower system referred to as Vantis. The Department of Transportation has utilized and hopes to expand utilization of UAS technology for flood fighting efforts, bridge inspection, tower inspection, land surveys, stockpile inventories, and other operating needs of the agency.

Thank you for allowing me to provide information regarding this bill. This concludes my testimony. I stand for any questions you might have at this time.