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Oct. 22, 2013

Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Administrator Huerta,

As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approaches its final decision regarding the selection of the six Test Sites for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) integration, I wanted to call your attention to the recent news that the Air Force and Grand Forks County have reached agreement on an Enhanced Use Lease which will lead to the creation of a business park at Grand Forks Air Force Base. This Enhanced Use Lease project demonstrates North Dakota's continuing commitment to further UAS integration and development of the infrastructure needed to support a successful Test Site. I hope you will take this recent action into account when making your final Test Site selections.

On October 17, 2013, the Air Force announced it had agreed to terms with the County of Grand Forks on a 217-acre business park to be located on Grand Forks Air Force Base. North Dakota officials sought this agreement with the Air Force to help advance the state's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) industry and build on the close relationship between the Air Base and the Grand Forks community. This project demonstrates the commitment of North Dakota to UAS and helps show the state's readiness and willingness to work with government and private sector stakeholders on how best to integrate UAS into the national airspace so the entire nation can reap the benefits of increased UAS use.

As we have discussed previously, I strongly support North Dakota's application for a UAS Test Site. North Dakota presents a unique climate and wide-open airspace to test a variety of UAS applications in the agricultural and energy sectors. Additionally, State of North Dakota has provided funds to assist with the project. I am confident North Dakota's team is ready to stand up a test site as soon as possible after selection.

Thank you for your consideration. I understand the challenge the FAA faces in making the final test bed selection. I look forward to working with you on the potential North Dakota test site and successfully integrating UAS into the national airspace.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

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