

PROCLAMATION **AVIATION MONTH** MARCH 2019

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aerospace, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions, aviation organization, public airports and airport operations; and

WHEREAS, the aviation and aerospace industry continues to play an increasing role as an economic catalyst in North Dakota, creating over 32,000 jobs and contributing an estimated \$3.6 billion annually to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has 89 public-use airports across the state, serving over 3,900 in-state pilots and over 2,100 based aircraft; and

WHEREAS, 2.2 million passengers utilized commercial air transportation in North Dakota in 2018, contributing over \$500 million to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is a leader in world-class aviation education opportunities, product development and technological advancement; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is home to one of the leading Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) test sites in the nation, where research is conducted to help integrate this new industry into the national airspace system; and North Dakota was selected as one of the nation's UAS Integration Pilot Programs and will help the United States accelerate the application of unmanned system technology; and

WHEREAS, aviation is also an essential part of our agricultural productivity as 100 aerial applicator businesses provided services to over 3.2 million acres of crops in 2018; and

WHEREAS, communities within North Dakota depend heavily on their community airports for the continued flow of commerce, tourists and visitors to our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2019, **AVIATION MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgum Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State