NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION ===

AVIATION MONTH MARCH 2020

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, 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, the aviation and aerospace industry plays 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, 2.4 million passengers utilized commercial air transportation within North Dakota in 2019, contributing over \$500 million to the state's economy through commercial passenger visitor spending; 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 Systems test sites in the nation where research is being conducted to help integrate this new industry into the national airspace system; furthermore, North Dakota was selected as one of the nation's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Programs and will help the United States accelerate the application of unmanned system technology; and

WHEREAS, aviation is an essential part of our agricultural productivity as 101 aerial applicator businesses provided services to 4 million acres of cropland in 2019; 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 2020, AVIATION MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

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Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE