NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION ==

AVIATION MONTH MARCH 2023

WHEREAS, the state of North Dakota has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, educational institutions, aviation organizations, 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 approximately 4,000 manned pilots, 1,500 remote pilots and over 2,200 based aircraft; and

WHEREAS, 2.1 million passengers utilized commercial air transportation within North Dakota in the year 2022 and contributed an estimated \$600 million to the state's economy through commercial passenger visitor spending; and

WHEREAS, aviation is also an essential part of North Dakota's agricultural productivity as 96 aerial applicator businesses provided services to approximately 4.6 million acres of cropland in 2022; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is home to one of the leading unmanned aircraft system test sites in the nation where research is being conducted to integrate this new industry into the national airspace system through Vantis, a first-of-its-kind network for beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2023, AVIATION MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

ND FOREVES OF VORTH OF VORTH

Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Michael Howe SECRETARY OF STATE

ATTEST: