

JOHN HOEVEN
NORTH DAKOTA

338 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2551
FAX: (202) 224-7999

hoeven.senate.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

July 28, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Mattis:

Thank you for your service and for your efforts to protect and defend our nation. I am writing to formally invite you to visit North Dakota to see firsthand my state's contributions to the vital missions of the Department of Defense. I appreciate your time and consideration of my invitation.

North Dakota is proud to play an important role in the defense of our nation, hosting a wide variety of missions, including two legs of the nuclear triad in Minot, the Global Hawk mission in Grand Forks, and the Reaper and intelligence targeting missions in Fargo. Further, members of the North Dakota National Guard have answered the call time and again to serve their communities in times of need and defend our freedoms at home and abroad. In fact, members of the NDNG are currently protecting the airspace of Washington, D.C., for Operation Noble Eagle.

Our involvement goes beyond the dedicated service of our men and women in uniform. North Dakota is on the forefront of developing the latest in unmanned aerial systems. In partnership with the Northern Plains Test Site and Grand Sky Technology Park in Grand Forks, Northrop Grumman, General Atomics, our research institutions, and others are developing the next generation of unmanned aircraft. This innovative work empowers us to effectively carry out many critical missions while keeping our troops out of harm's way. Your visit to our state would not only provide an opportunity to showcase the important efforts of our local service members, but it would also provide useful insights as you advance the security and interests of our country. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I look forward to continuing to work with you toward this shared goal. I sincerely hope you will be able to join me in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to have your office contact Jessica Lee, my State Director, in our Fargo office to coordinate this visit. She may be reached by phone at (701) 239-5114 or by e-mail at jessica_lee@hoeven.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hoeven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

10:44