



WILL KINCAID/Tribune

North Dakota's governor and congressional delegation speak at an energy conference in Bismarck on Oct. 14. Pictured from the left are Gov. Jack Dalrymple, Sen. John Hoeven, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Rep. Kevin Cramer. "This could be a huge safety opportunity to do surveillance on safety issues," Heitkamp said, "whether it is a pipeline, transmission line, well pad, producing well that maybe someone isn't on site all the time, but you will have the opportunity to check on it remotely."

and math concentrations while encouraging new startups and innovation.

"What I found exciting about UAS and what is going on in that area is the fact that we have these guys that are so mathematically far ahead and they have their head so far into this thing. They are the technology side of it," Goehring said. "They go and hire someone else to go and build the plane. And that's what you really need. You don't need a guy who just builds a plane and attaches a camera to it because he doesn't understand what the need is. We are seeing this the other way around and that's driving the technology, that's driving the need and its driving solutions. And its going to be exciting."

While the idea of UAS is not new, the industry is. According to the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the UAS global industry is approximately \$11 billion and forecasts the global market will generate \$140 billion in economic growth by 2025. Furthermore, projections indicate the industry will create more than 100,000 jobs in that time period.

"And if you look at North Dakota, we produce over 50 different commodities when you add animal agriculture into it," Goehring said. "We have the ability here to do a lot more to address production agriculture and issues out there, monitor, treat and harvest effectively, efficiently and produce for our state, for region, for nation and for the world."

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