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January 12, 2023

HB # 1166 (1/13/2022 Hearing – 10:30 A.M.)

Dear Chair Thomas and Honorable Members of the Agriculture Committee:

The Mountrail County Commission is respectfully requesting you to support a “DO NOT PASS” on House Bill #1166 relating to state funding requirements for county weather modification operations.

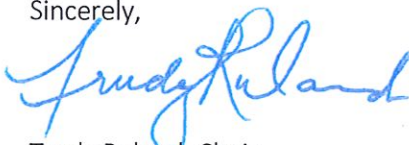
Mountrail County Weather Modification has been in operation since 1970 with the support of State, County and local tax dollars. The bill proposed is not about whether the Mountrail County Commission is in support or not in support of the continuance of weather modification operations, it is about proposed verbiage to potentially restrict funding from the State for weather modification operations by requiring approval from bordering counties before State funding is released. The likelihood of a non-participating bordering county opposing to State funding for weather modification operations is great as recent elections have indicated such.

This basically is taking the rights away from the residents of one county that have elected to participate in weather modification operations. A neighboring county should not have “control” as to whether or not weather modification operations exist in a participating county by making State funding dependent on their county’s approval. It appears the proposed bill is a roundabout way of potentially eliminating weather modification operations in a county where citizens have petitioned or have voted to be part of the program.

Please consider the ramifications or the precedent that may be set by allowing a bordering county to “control” funding for a program brought to existence by the electors of a county. Further, please consider the significant negative economic impact to not only the producer but also the businesses that benefit from weather modification operations.

Your consideration and support for a “DO NOT PASS” on House Bill #1166 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Trudy Ruland, Chair
Mountrail County Board of Commissioners

E-mail:

District #2 & #4 House Representatives
ND House Agriculture Standing Committee
Williams, McKenzie & Bowman Boards of County Commissioners
Aaron Skarsgard, Chair Mountrail County Weather Modification
Aaron Birst, Director of NDACo