



**Testimony on HB 1166**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**January 13, 2023**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am Dani Quissell with the North Dakota Weather Modification Association. I am here in opposition to HB 1166.

North Dakota has a long history of conducting weather modification activities, dating back to the 1950s. We are fortunate to have a framework in place that gives the people the choice, on a county level, on whether or not weather modification activities occur in their county. Locals also foot the majority of the bill to pay for such activities, which amounts to about \$0.14/acre.

Studies done in North Dakota show benefit for North Dakotans due to weather modification. These studies have indicated a 5-10% increase in moisture and a 45% reduction in hail in areas where weather modification activities occur.

Today five counties have voted to conduct weather modification activities in their counties: Bowman, McKenzie, Williams, Mountrail and part of Slope. The people in those counties provide 66% of the funding for these activities. The Department of Water Resources, using Resources Trust Fund dollars, not general fund dollars, cost shares with these counties to support weather modification activities in their counties. HB 1166 would prevent the state from providing this cost share to counties that vote to conduct these activities unless *every surrounding county*, conceivably even counties in other states, agrees to the activity.

From our view, HB 1166 allows neighboring counties to interfere in the activity of a county, potentially disrupting activity the people in a county specifically voted for. We believe this is concerning on face value and could lead to a precedent for one county to interfere with the activity of another county.

I believe there will be further testimony that will provide additional detail on the technical aspects of weather modification and the current program as well as how this proposal would impact counties in western North Dakota.

Thank you for your attention this morning. I'd be happy to stand for any questions.