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March 15, 2023

RE: Testimony in opposition to HB#1166

Dear Chair Luick and Honorable Members of the Senate Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Committee:

As a concerned citizen of Mountrail County and board member of the Mountrail County Weather Modification Authority, I am strongly urging you to vote **"NO"** on House Bill #1166 pertaining to county weather modification operations. At the very least, please consider continued State funding to Mountrail County and other participation counties and/or townships that are part of this program.

The benefits from this program include:

- **Hail Suppression.** A single hailstorm can cost millions of dollars in lost production and property damage.
- **Increased Rainfall.** This is a byproduct of the hail suppression which contributes to:
 - increased yields,
 - better quality grains, and
 - increased revenue for the county as well as the State.
- **Lower Hail Insurance Costs.**
- **University of North Dakota.** The program provides a real-time living classroom for the UND pilot program as well as meteorologists.
- **Operational efficiency.** The newest technology has allowed this program to run extremely efficiently.

Western North Dakota is the most arid region of our State and over the years we have been asked to fund flood projects throughout the State such as in Minot, Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks. Millions of dollars of oil and gas monies have been distributed throughout the State. Flooding is not our problem. Lack of rain and severe summer storms are our problem and we ask that you continue to help us with that. There is plenty of data that supports the legitimacy and benefits of weather modification. This is not old data, this is from new recent studies. Please do not ignore the **SCIENCE**.

There is already a process in place to recall or eliminate a program like this. Mountrail County and its people have long supported the weather modification program. We do not need a group from Ward County to dictate to us how to run our County. An additional election is expensive and **NOT** necessary to continue a program that has been successful for over 50 years.

Again your support for a **"DO NOT PASS"** on House Bill #1166 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
TIM JOHNSON

