

Jon Wert

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Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

My name is Jon Wert and I farm with my family in the New England, ND area.

I submit my testimony in favor of HB1166.

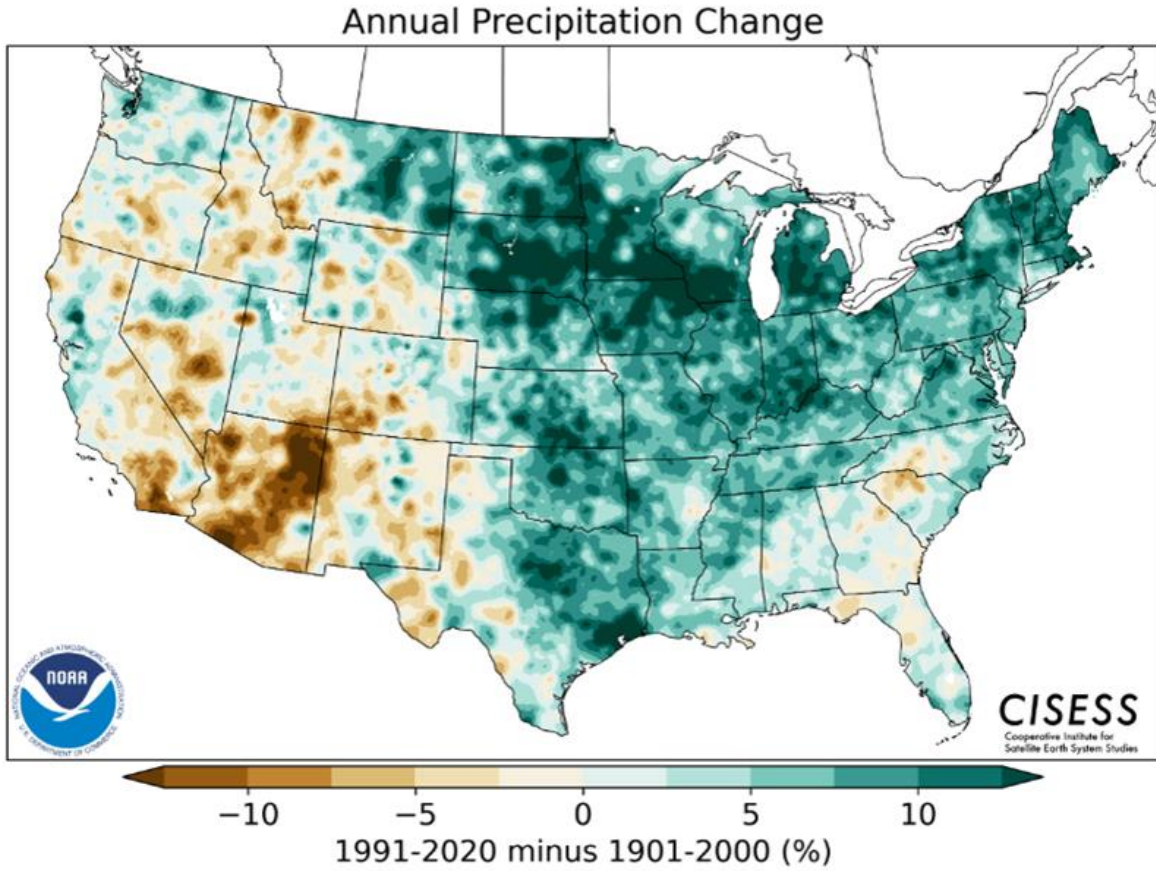
I along with my farming neighbors have been suffering from the “down wind” effects of weather modification for decades. At one point there were as many as 38 counties participating in the program. That number is now only 4 counties and a handful of townships in slope county. Our county (Hettinger) voted to withdraw from the program around 40 years ago because of the ill effects we experienced. Unfortunately, we still feel these effects as the studies show there is a down wind effect up to 90 miles from cloud seeding operations. Unfortunately, none of the studies look at data from downwind counties. However, I gathered precipitation data for all of North Dakota from the state climatologist and it showed up to a 2” loss of precip. in downwind counties compared to the average. Ironically the eastern counties of Montana have had an increase in precipitation as has the eastern 2/3 of North Dakota. The data showing this I submitted in my testimony to the House Ag Committee and can be found there. The newest study by Tuftedal, Delene, and Detwiler released in Dec, 2021 shows that Bowman county which is a participating county lost more rainfall than the upwind control county of Carter county, MT. This begs the question of why it is still practiced in a county when the study shows the program doesn’t work.

Unfortunately, even though we feel the negative effects of the program our tax dollars go to fund a program we believe is harming us.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

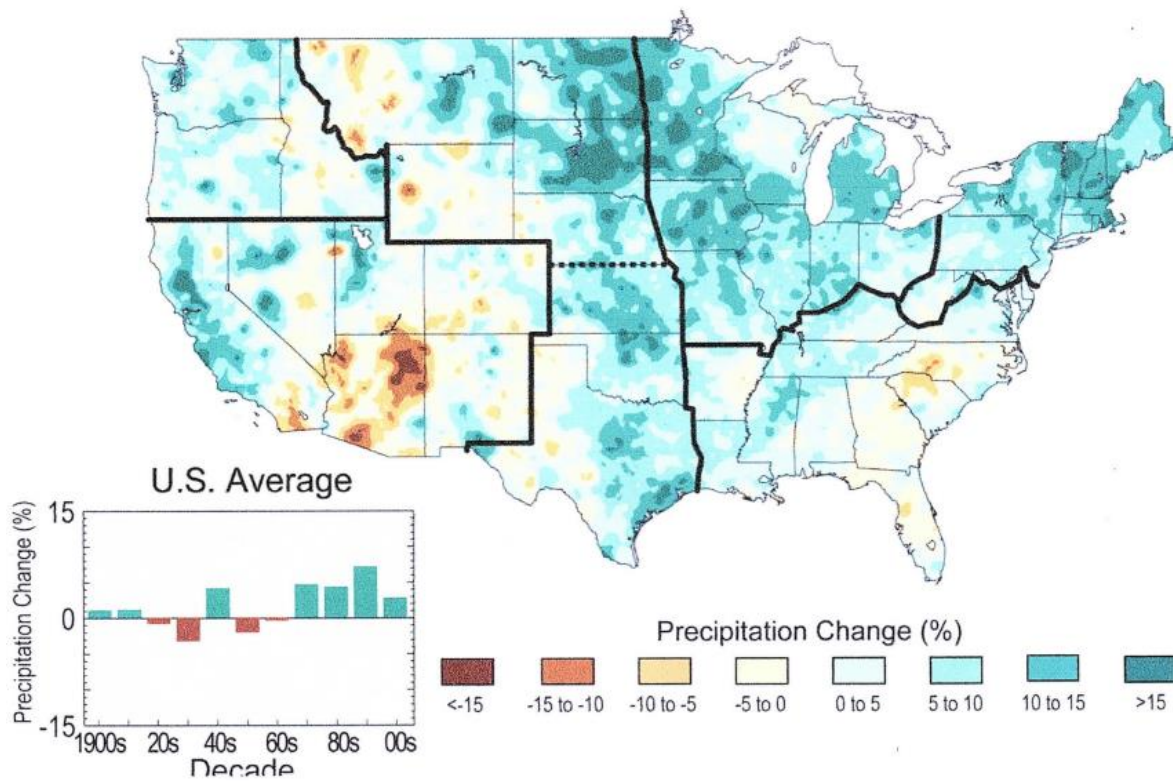
Respectfully submitted, Jon Wert

(The below precipitation maps are all that one needs to see to conclude weather modification has decreased our precipitation. The maps back up the data I compiled in my House testimony. The maps are provided by NOAA.)





### Observed U.S. Precipitation Change



The colors on the map show annual total precipitation changes for 1991-2012 compared to the 1901-1960 average, and show wetter conditions in most areas. The bars on the graph show average precipitation differences by decade for 1901-2012 (relative to the 1901-1960 average). The far right bar is for 2001-2012. (Figure source: NOAA NCDC / CICS-NC).

22 yrs

