

Thank you for letting me speak today.

Hello, my name is Damon Mellmer. I am a farmer in Adams County, North Dakota. I am writing this testimony in favor of HB1166.

Before I get into the bill, I am going to write about the reasons I am against weather modification, especially in Bowman County. For the previous years, I have continued to watch Bowman County seed storms consistently all summer long. I do not care what the ridiculous, fairytale studies the weather modification board has posted on their website says, I watch storm after storm disappear. I do not have to go onto the radar and see when or if the planes go up. I simply look into the sky and see the storm splitting and disappearing. I know the planes are seeding, but I check the radar just to be sure. Imagine that, every time I see the storm splitting, the planes are flying. The amount of anger and frustration I see from not only myself, but my fellow farming/ranching neighbors is absolutely sickening. How can we be allowing the government to control our weather and take away our storms? We sit here completely helpless. There is nothing we can do about it. I personally invite each of you to make the drive to Reeder, ND this summer before a storm. We can stand in my driveway and observe the effects of weather modification. Only then do I truly believe you will listen to me. I will even provide you with a home-cooked meal. This may come off as a joke. It is absolutely not. I mean this with 100% sincerity. Please come see for yourselves.

Next, I would like you to look at the hail claims in Bowman and Adams County for crop insurance the past 4 years, especially 3 & 4 years ago. If hail suppression is their claim, how is it possible I lost 4,500 acres of cropland 3 years ago? Not only were we in an awful drought (with some blame easily and definitively put on the weather modification program taking away moisture through cloud seeding), I then have to deal with losing thousands of acres of cropland. So not only do they kill rain clouds, they obviously can't suppress hail either. Why are we wasting millions of dollars for this absolute pathetic program? By the way, I farm 6 miles downwind from the Bowman County line. I am 6 miles from where they stop seeding. That doesn't stop them though. I have proof through the radar as well as my own eyes that have seeded 5 miles into Adams County.

They say they have all this data proving the positive effects of weather mod. Seriously? Who can believe this hoax? What are they comparing it to? They have seeded storms for the last 50 years. Without having data of no weather modification in Bowman County the last 50 years, this simply is a lie. Why do we not stop weather modification for the next 10 years? We then can have some actual data to compare weather mod's positive and negative effects. I assure you that weather modification would be no more. That is why this will never happen. Speaking of weather modification being no more, let's ask this million dollar question. Out of all of the counties in ND that have voted out weather mod, how come it has NEVER been voted back in? Common sense tells us the correct answer. The cons outweigh the pros. It simply is not effective. It causes more harm than good. If it was as good and amazing as they claim to be, these counties would have voted it back in by now. Also, why is someone trying to control our

weather? If I am supposed to get hail, I am going to get hail. If I am supposed to be in a drought, let me be in a drought. LEAVE the weather alone. Do not try to play "God" and control something you have no business trying to control. We are sick of being controlled.

I would also like to point out the fact that silver iodide is being dispersed into these clouds. I want to ask the question of what are the effects of silver iodide on humans? On animals? On land? Do we know? Has this been studied? If so, I cannot find it. We do not know what harm these chemicals can cause. That alone should be illegal.

Now let's get into this bill. First of all, they have admitted that weather modification affects weather downwind. Downwind of Bowman County is Adams County. So what Bowman County does effects my weather, and I have absolutely zero say in this. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE ON SOMETHING THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS OUR LIVELIHOODS. This is absolutely criminal that we (the people of Adam's County) cannot vote on continuing or stopping weather mod since it affects our weather, our families, our jobs, and our livelihoods. This needs to be fixed ASAP. We should have a voice and vote on this topic. Since we cannot vote on this, why should Bowman County get to use ND taxpayer money to continue weather modification when no one else can vote for this? This is completely wrong. They can use their own money to fund this joke of a program. They can waste their own money.

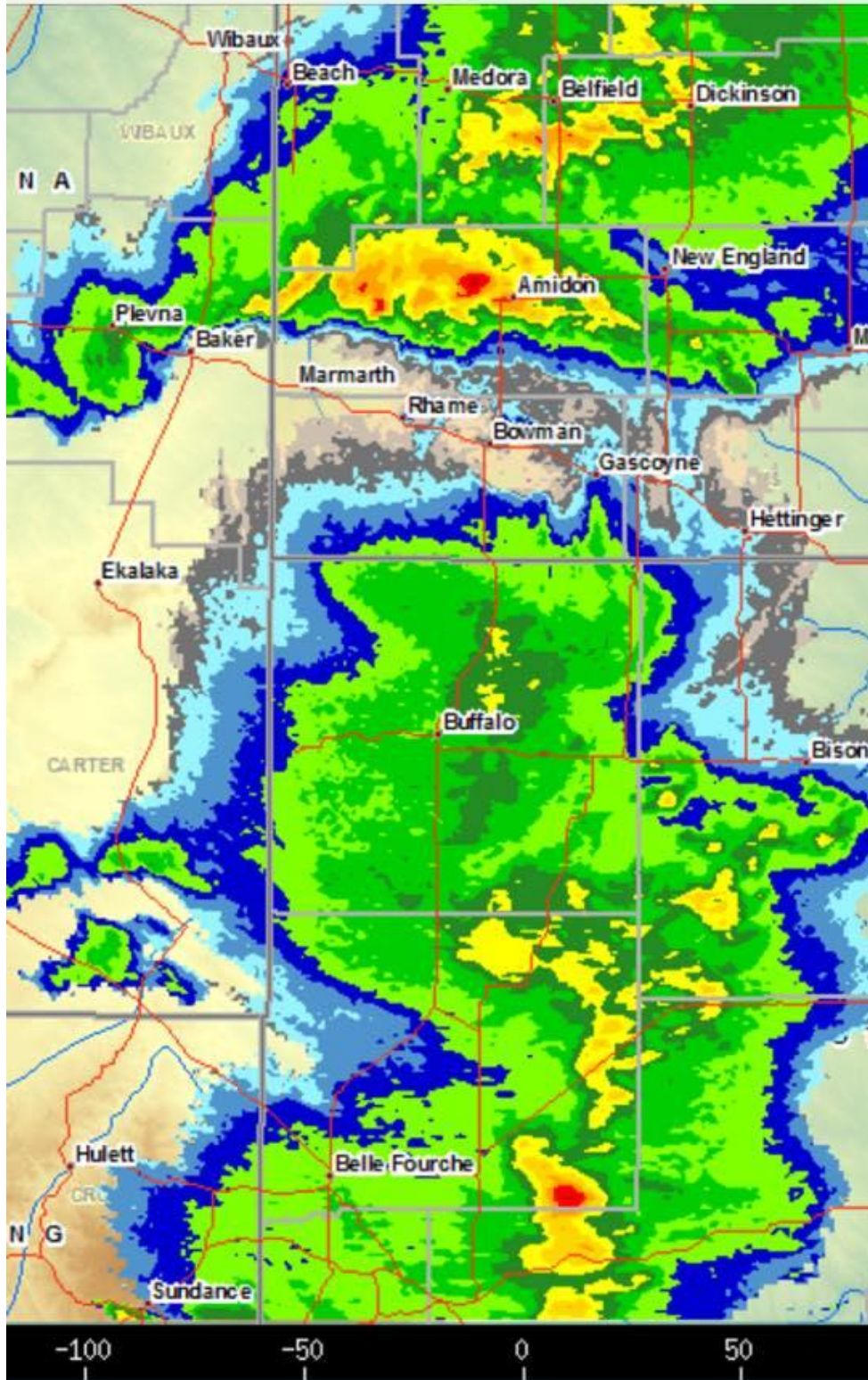
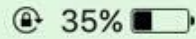
I like the fact that this bill would make them stop spraying on the last township line. This will ensure that they do not come into my county and continue to spray (which they have down countless times before.) This is just common sense.

Lastly, I am going to finish with some proof from a Facebook post I made in on July 2, 2017. (See attached photo).

This is a picture of the storm that came across our area today. Before the storm hit Marmarth, the storm was seeded repeatedly north and south. The effects of this are pretty obvious as the storm completely split around us. If you doubt it, watch the radar yourself. The drought we are in is terrible and dangerous, not only for the agriculturalists, but for everyone in the area. Something needs to change.



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