



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Matthew Ruby

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## COMMITTEES:

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Good morning Chairman Luick, Vice Chairman Myrdal and committee,  
My name is Matt Ruby and I represent district 40 in the House of Representatives. Before you is HB 1166 which deals with weather modification programs in the state and addresses the issue of their effects on the down wind areas that have decline participation. The bill initially gave input to surrounding counties before the state could apply their cost share to the county. The opposition had a lot of issue with that suggestion, but didn't offer a solution. So it became clear that since there isn't a fair way for a county to prevent another county from receiving state dollars to fund this program, even though this program affects many more than just those residents in the host county, the only clear solution is to remove the state cost share. I would request an amendment to make it clear that the pilot intern program and meteorology intern program administered through the Atmospheric Resource Board may be funded by the state. The county can still fund their own program without any input from a surrounding county. But since this does affect more than just that host county, the state shouldn't be funding this. The other two things this does is provide for a two-township setback for when seeding must cease and requires that the county commission must put a measure on the ballot every 5 years. On the Water Commission website its stated that the effects of cloud seeding are seen up to 100 miles down wind so even if a township or county on the border of a county that doesn't participate, doesn't have seeding taking place over their area they will see the effects. As far as the ballot measure, the current practice is that a county commission votes to reauthorize the program. This would put it to the vote of the people. I would suggest a change to make that an even number, I would prefer 4 years and the Weather Modification Association would prefer 6 years but we both prefer the even number and that it would be the general election. The reason for this vote is because the county commission doesn't always know what their constituents want. In the case of Ward county the commissioners were back and forth and decided it should go to the vote of the people. The program was killed with 85% percent of the vote. So you have very passionate people on either side talking in your ear and sometimes its just who talks the most or last or the loudest. By putting it on the ballot it gives everyone a chance to have input on the outcome. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.