



The Honorable Mike Beltz
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505
RE: BILL HB 1514

Dear Chairman Beltz,

The intent of this letter is to provide credible information and expert viewpoints from water providers and water managers to persuade you to consider altering the language in proposed HB 1514.

The North American Weather Modification Council is composed of state water agencies from California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming in addition to ten water managers, water providers and hydropower producers — some of which have been cloud seeding since the 1950s. Many of the council member agencies are the cloud seeding regulators for their respective states. The council meets four times each year to exchange information on cloud seeding issues, promote the effective use of these technologies to increase precipitation, suppress damaging hail and mitigate fog; and to advance research and development activities to increase scientific knowledge about cloud seeding capabilities.

Cloud seeding is a scientifically validated method for enhancing water supply, has been thoroughly researched, and is conducted with transparency and strict adherence to environmental regulations. Operations are successfully conducted across 10 western states and one province in the United States and Canada and in dozens of other countries. Our issue is that a legal proscription on cloud seeding in one state, based on faulty data, irrational conclusions and unproven claims, could negatively impact the states that are applying this important resource management tool. For example, cloud seeding is not related to contrails (sometimes mistakenly referred to as “chemtrails”) yet legislation is being pursued to ban cloud seeding because of this misunderstanding.

While we support efforts to regulate air pollution, enforce restrictions on untested geoengineering technologies, and ban substances that pose risks to public health or the environment, cloud seeding does not fall into any of these categories. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you revise your bill to exclude cloud seeding technologies. Instead, we urge you to address the real concerns of your constituents: the potential risks associated with geo-engineering.

Operational cloud seeding in North Dakota with a focus on hail suppression adds great value to the state’s farmers, ranchers and homeowners who benefit from these technologies. These initiatives enjoy strong support amongst water managers in the west, but the idea of

"chemtrails," which are entirely unrelated to cloud seeding, has started to impede the progress of the cloud seeding, or precipitation enhancement programs.

Decades of research and practical application have consistently demonstrated that modern cloud seeding technologies are safe and effective.

Lastly, we have included an attachment to this letter which includes a brief explanation of the cloud seeding process as well as additional informative resources. Should you have any questions or desire additional information please contact me.

Respectfully,



Jake M. Serago, P.E.
President
North American Weather Modification Council
www.nawmc.org