



**House Agriculture Committee
Hearing for HB 1514
Testimony of Mary Massad, President, North Dakota Water Users Association
February 6, 2025**

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1514. My name is Mary Massad, and I am president of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members from all across North Dakota who have an active interest in water management in all its forms.

The Water Users has a long-term goal:

To support the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project and continued funding for weather modification activities and programs, including research and evaluation of atmospheric resources, expand cloud modification activities in the state; and to continue to form the technical base for further scientific progress and economic development.

North Dakota has a long history of conducting weather modification activities. Today, the state is at the forefront in developing and using this technology. Weather Modification International, based in Fargo, with a plant in Kindred, is the leader in this industry. Additionally, through a unique partnership with the University of North Dakota, students at UND are able to train as pilot interns through the weather modification program.

Cloud seeding in North Dakota increases the efficiency of clouds, maximizes precipitation and decreases the likelihood storms will develop into devastating hailstorms. Studies in North Dakota do show direct benefits for North Dakotans due to weather modification. These studies indicate a 5-10% increase in moisture and a 45% reduction in hail in areas where weather modification activities occur.

Weather modification is a tool of water management available to local political subdivisions on a voluntary basis. HB 1514 seeks to ban this tool through a vote in Bismarck rather than let local citizens make the decision for themselves. This would remove the ability of residents of McKenzie and Bowman Counties, as well as some townships in Slope County, to continue to utilize a program they find effective in managing water for them.

Please maintain local control over this important decision. I respectfully request a 'do not pass' recommendation on HB 1514.

Thank you.