



**Testimony on SB 2106
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 30, 2025**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Dani Quissell with the North Dakota Weather Modification Association. I am here in opposition to SB 2106.

North Dakota has a long history of conducting weather modification activities, dating back to the 1950s. We are fortunate to have a framework in place that gives the people the choice, on a local level, on whether or not weather modification activities occur in their area.

Today, just two counties, Bowman and McKenzie, and a few townships in Slope have active weather modification programs. This is a change from just two years ago when we last talked about weather modification. In November, the people in Williams and Mountrail counties voted to discontinue their programs. In my opinion, this demonstrates that our current framework works.

I have heard the argument that individuals shouldn't have to go through the process of putting the question of the continuation of the program to a vote of the people. I would point out that while that is the most direct way to attempt to discontinue a program, it is not the only option available under current law. Regular reauthorization of the program is mandated in current century code. Reauthorization most often takes place by a vote of the elected county commissioners. In the past, county commissioners have put the question to a vote of the people as well when they felt that was most appropriate.

I understand that putting a question like this to a vote of the people requires both a commitment of time and dollar—and that that can be frustrating. However, that is the democratic process at work. Just as you each made a significant time and likely financial commitment when you ran for the legislature, putting a policy question to a vote of the people requires an investment regardless of whether that comes from the county or individuals.

I ask you to give SB 2106 a 'do not pass' recommendation and continue the current practice of allowing locals to decide for themselves whether to have weather modification in their area or not. Thank you for your attention this afternoon. I'd be happy to stand for any questions.