



January 28, 2025

Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to ask you to give SB 2106 a 'do not pass' recommendation.

Today, North Dakota has one of the premier weather modification programs in the country. While activities are concentrated in western North Dakota, Weather Modification LLC is based in Fargo and provides weather modification services across the globe and is considered the world leader in this industry.

The weather modification program has real benefits for the people in areas where the program operates. Without the program, there will be impacts to agricultural productivity and damage to homes and businesses.

A recent study by NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics (Bangsund and Hodur, 2019), showed that the value of added growing season rainfall at 5 percent enhancement is estimated at \$21.2 million annually, or \$9.19 per planted acre. The cost per acre for the cloud seeding program is only \$0.40 per planted acre.

Referencing two studies completed on the topic of downwind effects, Wise, 2005 and Johnson, 1985 both concluded that there were no negative downwind effects and only positive effects downwind. This negates the argument that if seeding occurs upwind of a non-participating county, they "steal" the rain. It is to the contrary and studies have proven this.

The viability of cloud seeding is also evident from the fact that California, Arizona, and Nevada have been funding cloud seeding programs in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado due to their own downstream water needs. Today, more than 50 countries operate cloud seeding programs due to its viability and success as a water management tool.

To combat misinformation in our industry, education is a critical part of our success. Please refer to references to studies in this letter and for more science-based facts and studies, please refer to the North American Weather Modification Council website at <http://www.nawmc.org/>.

Part of what has made North Dakota's program successful is that operation of the program is locally driven. Counties (and townships) have the ability to opt in or out of the program based on the wishes of their residents. SB 2106 would remove the ability of local entities from making this decision—taking away local control.

For these reasons, I would ask for a 'do not pass' recommendation on SB 2106.

Thank you,


James P. Sweeney
President