



January 30, 2025

Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. I am Jody Fischer, the Vice President of Flight Operations at Weather Modification International. I am writing to ask you to give SB 2106 a 'do not pass' recommendation.

North Dakota has one of the premier weather modification programs in the world. Weather Modification LLC is based in Fargo and provides atmospheric services across the globe. We are considered the world leader in this industry. Our facilities in Fargo have become the hub for training and special mission airplane modifications for atmospheric science operations. At WMI we regularly host groups from around the world who want to get a better understanding of how to conduct cloud seeding operations effectively. This year we've hosted delegations from South Korea, Argentina, Romania, Greece, and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, ICE Crystal Engineering is a manufacturing plant located north of Kindred in Cass County, which manufactures the pyrotechnics used in cloud seeding operations.

The benefits to this program are not just in the western part of our state and Cass County. This program provides support for the University of North Dakota's Aviation program, one of the top aviation programs in the country. Over 400 pilot interns and over 70 meteorologists have received training because of the existence of weather modification activities in North Dakota.

This critical partnership between private industry, the University of North Dakota, the state Atmospheric Resource Board and most importantly the local political subdivisions and the citizens they serve have made North Dakota the 'go-to' place to learn about weather modification.

Often, we get questions about the safety of using cloud seeding materials, in particular silver iodide. The published scientific literature clearly shows no environmentally harmful effects have been observed; nor are they expected to occur. For example, silver iodide particles are barely detectable in snow and soil samples taken downwind of cloud seeding activities (2-3 parts per trillion). Compared to a generally considered "safe" range for drinking water is between 30 and 500 parts per million. In addition, the published scientific literature clearly shows no weather-related adverse effects downstream from cloud seeding operations.



SB 2106 would ban the exact collaboration between private industry, local political subdivisions and state entities that have pushed North Dakota to the forefront of this industry. For these reasons, I would ask for a 'do not pass' recommendation on SB 2106.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jody Fischer".

Jody Fischer, Vice President of Flight Operations