



Board of Commissioners

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January 29, 2025

SB 2106 (Hearing on 1/30/2025)

Dear Chair Patten and Honorable Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

Pertaining to SB 2106, we as concerned farmers, ranchers, and business owners in Bowman County respectfully request a 'do not pass' recommendation on SB 2106. We feel weather modification is beneficial to agriculture, as well as homeowners and businesses here in Bowman County. The loss of assets due to hail could be devastating to both the county and state economy. When farmers and ranchers are negatively affected by hail loss, the local economy suffers. Grain elevators, lumber yards, implement dealers, livestock supply stores, convenience stores, fertilizer plants, car dealerships and many other small-town businesses suffer when farmers and ranchers experience financial loss from hail.

One state business that would be negatively affected by the loss of weather modification in Bowman County is the University of North Dakota. The University of North Dakota would suffer significantly through the potential loss of student hours in the flight training program. UND flight training students, because of their extensive training in turbulent conditions through the weather modification program, are sought after as pilots for international commercial airlines.

Currently, the people of Bowman County get to make the decision on whether to continue to have this program in our county. In 2016 the people of Bowman County were given the opportunity to vote to continue with the program. Bowman County citizens voted 70% in favor to keep the program.

Bowman County Commission appreciates your time and consideration for a DO NOT PASS on SB 2106.

Sincerely,

Rick Braaten, Chairman
Bowman County Board of Commissioners