

2/6/24

Stephen R Dahl

Testimony PRO H7295

The Rhode Island Clean Air Preservation Act, H7295, will protect Rhode Island from the mishandling of our environment which is outlined in the federal document from the White House entitled [quote] “Congressionally Mandated Research Plan and an Initial Research Governance Framework Related to Solar Radiation Modification, June 2023.” [unquote]

This federal plan is not a viable option for addressing climate change. Page 3 of the plan calls for “Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), specifically ‘stratospheric aerosol injection’ (SAI) and marine cloud brightening (MCB)” [unquote] which would pollute the atmosphere above Rhode Island and its marine coast to the detriment of flora, fauna, and aquatic life.

How reckless is it to damage the ozone layer, which we attended to in the 1990s, only to wreck it in the present day, for a scheme which definitely pollutes, and may actually accelerate global warming and harm biodiversity?

The federal plan illustrates these problems on pages 10 and 11. [quote] “Science tells us that SRM would not simply undo all of the negative consequences of greenhouse gas emissions...In addition, limited research suggests that the use of SRM might result in environmental impacts, as well as climate variability and extremes which are distinct from those in any climate without SRM...Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), for example, can alter stratospheric heating, circulation, and chemistry (including accelerating ozone depletion)... SRM would likely also affect more integrative aspects of ecosystems like biodiversity, for example, because SRM may increase the proportion of diffuse rather than direct incoming solar radiation.” [unquote]

How are polluted cloudy days going to affect our mental health, our asthma, and the smallest, most vulnerable creatures? Look at the diagram on page 20 with all of the research aircraft needed to drop their payloads of up to 30,000 pounds of pollution from each craft?

I object to the federal plan which would recklessly pollute the atmosphere and all below it. I do not consent to being part of this experiment. I do not consent to allowing the federal government to assume governance of our ecosystem, especially when our federal government is willing to cede its own governance to foreign nations or governing bodies.

We need H7295 to protect Rhode Island’s air quality in order to protect our health and the environment in which we live. Thank you.

Stephen R Dahl