

Testimony in Support of H5217 – The Rhode Island Clean Air Preservation Act

Good afternoon, esteemed Committee members.

My name is Lisa Tener and I am here today to express strong support for H5217, the Rhode Island Clean Air Preservation Act. I am nervous about driving in snow but I am braving the weather to support this important legislation. I am a mom of two, a writer and a book coach. I received both my bachelors and masters degrees in science from MIT, and my undergraduate core requirements gave me enough background in science to look at scientific research and claims with something of a discerning eye.

I want to highlight the urgent need for state-level environmental protection measures in the face of expanding federal and international influences over our airspace.

For over 80 years, the federal government has engaged in weather modification and atmospheric experimentation under various names—weather modification, geoengineering, and climate intervention. These programs occur without state input or permission or environmental impact assessments, and they have been repackaged and rebranded over time. A prime example is the 2005 legislation introduced by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, S. 517, which sought to establish a federally controlled Weather Modification Subcommittee. While framed as a research initiative, its language closely mirrored earlier efforts to normalize large-scale atmospheric interventions or weather modification. This is part of a long-standing pattern of federal agencies operating without regard for the sovereignty of individual states and public safety.

The 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution is clear: powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states and the people. This amendment serves as a safeguard against federal overreach, ensuring that states retain the authority to make decisions that directly impact their environment, health, and safety.

There is a general assumption that federal law always overrides state law but this is not true. Those powers not delegated to the federal government as defined by the Constitution are automatically reserved to the States and to We the People. The key phrase in the Supremacy Clause is: ***“in Pursuance thereof,”***

With regard to the Supremacy Clause, Alexander Hamilton stated: “**It EXPRESSLY confines this supremacy to laws made PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION.**”

James Madison said, “The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.”

Yet, for decades, atmospheric modification has been conducted without public oversight or consent, placing Rhode Island and other states in a reactionary position rather than an active role in determining what happens in their skies.

However, Rhode Island has made its voice heard. Eight years ago, our state began to challenge the unchecked expansion of these programs. That small but significant effort has now led to 22 states introducing legislation to prohibit weather modification activities. This demonstrates that when states assert their constitutional rights, they can drive national change.

H5217 is not just a bill—it is a necessary assertion of Rhode Island’s right to protect its air, its environment, and its people. It sets a precedent that atmospheric experimentation cannot be imposed without the consent of those who live beneath these **polluted skies**. Rhode Island has the opportunity to lead once again by passing this legislation and reinforcing that federal agencies and international organizations cannot dictate state environmental policies.

I urge this Committee to vote in favor of H5217 and send a clear message: Rhode Island will not cede control over its airspace. The Clean Air Preservation Act is a vital step in ensuring transparency, protecting public safety, environmental health, and upholding the constitutional rights Rhode Islanders.

Thank you.

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Supplemental information:

<https://zerogeoengineering.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/5Z-2005-Weather-Modification-Letter-JH-Marburger-III-December-13-2005-Letter11-3.pdf>