February 6, 2025

Dear House Committee Members,

On September 25, 1961 John F. Kennedy addressed the United Nations and stated, ***"We shall propose further cooperative efforts between all nations in weather prediction and eventually in weather control."***
Source

My name is Shane McIntosh-Lawson and I support the preservation of a clean atmosphere. Most people never really consider that they are constantly being exposed to pollution coming from 'weather making', but they should.

According to the 2024 GAO Cloud seeding Technology Report, "most cloud seeding and other weather modification governance has been formulated and enforced at the state level within the U.S. . Two federal laws specifically address weather modification: the Weather Modification Reporting Act of 1972 and the National Weather Modification Policy Act of 1976. The laws require that (1) NOAA maintain a record of U.S. weather modification activities; (2) operators report their activities; and (3) NOAA prepare a report on weather modification research; economic, legal, social, and ecological implications; and policy options, which it completed in 1979.

The term "weather modification" is defined in the federal law as "any activity performed with the intention of producing artificial changes in the composition, behavior, or dynamics of the atmosphere."

Other laws which provide for atmospheric experimentation include the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 that was established by Presidential Initiative in 1989 and mandated by Congress in 1990. This law was cited in the 2023 White House Report, Congressionally Mandated Research Plan and an Initial Research Governance Framework Related to Solar Radiation Modification(SRM), relative to federal coordination and funding of SRM through the US Global Change Research Program.

In 2017 the Trump administration passed H.R. 353, the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017, which established the US Federal Weather Enterprise. Discussed in H.R. 353 are appropriations, coordination and partnerships between federal agencies, the United States Weather Industry, academic partners, and international collaboration. Technologies included phased-array technologies, NEXRAD (Next generation Radar), satellite systems, wireless communications networks, weather and air chemistry experimentation, and weather laboratories.

In addition to these federal laws, at least 29 states and the District of Columbia have laws that address weather modification in some way, according to research published in 2021. In 2024, Tennessee passed a law prohibiting cloud seeding and some other weather modification operations in the state. Similar bills have been introduced in at least nine other state legislatures from January 2023 through mid-December 2024."

Rhode Island is listed in the footnotes of the 2024 GAO article among the states working to ban cloud seeding activities, though the number of states that are working to ban cloud seeding activities is now at twenty-two. At the same time, Rhode Island's current policy allows for weather modification which is to be corrected by H 5217.

The Clean Air Preservation Act addresses weather modification policy. Rhode Islanders never voted for or gave consent to federal weather control. Atmospheric experimentation is a hostile use of technology and therefore must be banned in order to protect people and nature. I want you to get the weather modification policy corrected so that Rhode Island can enact responsible policy and continue to lead the nation in environmental protection. You can do that.

Thank you.

Shane McIntosh-Lawson
Midway Drive, North Kingston, RI 02852

*GAO-25-107328, Cloud Seeding Technology: Assessing Effectiveness and Other Challenges

Weather Modification Policy *USCODE-2015-title15-chap9A.pdf

Public Law 115–25
115th Congress

An Act

To improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather research through a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to support substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, to expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes.

Apr. 18, 2017
[H.R. 353]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017.
15 USC 8501 note.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

"(iii) the plan for operationalization, including which line office will financially support the project and how much the line office intends to spend;

"(6) establish teams with staff from the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service to oversee the operationalization of research products developed by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

"(7) develop mechanisms for research priorities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to be informed by the relevant line offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the relevant user community, and the weather enterprise;

"(8) develop an internal mechanism to track the progress of each research project within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and mechanisms to terminate a project that is not adequately progressing;

"(9) develop and implement a system to track whether extramural research grant goals were accomplished;

"(10) provide facilities for products developed by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to be tested in operational simulations, such as test beds; and

"(11) encourage academic collaboration with the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service by facilitating visiting scholars.";

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the" and inserting "The"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) SUBSEASONAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'subseasonal' means the time range between 2 weeks and 3 months.".

15 USC 8519.

SEC. 110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018.—For each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, there are authorized to be appropriated to Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research—

(1) $111,516,000 to carry out this title, of which—

(A) $85,758,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) $25,758,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) an additional amount of $20,000,000 for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4).

(b) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

TITLE II—SUBSEASONAL AND SEASONAL FORECASTING INNOVATION

SEC. 201. IMPROVING SUBSEASONAL AND SEASONAL FORECASTS.

Section 1762 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198; 15 U.S.C. 313 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "(a)" and inserting "(a) FINDINGS.—";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "(b)" and inserting "(b) POLICY.—"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

(1) Improving the fundamental understanding of weather consistent with section 101, including the boundary layer and other processes affecting high impact weather events.

(2) Improving the understanding of how the public receives, interprets, and responds to warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(3) Research and development, and transfer of knowledge, technologies, and applications to the National Weather Service and other appropriate agencies and entities, including the United States weather industry and academic partners, related to—

(A) advanced radar, radar networking technologies, and other ground-based technologies, including those emphasizing rapid, fine-scale sensing of the boundary layer and lower troposphere, and the use of innovative, dual-polarization, phased-array technologies;

(B) aerial weather observing systems;

(C) high performance computing and information technology and wireless communication networks;

(D) advanced numerical weather prediction systems and forecasting tools and techniques that improve the forecasting of timing, track, intensity, and severity of high impact weather, including through—

(i) the development of more effective mesoscale models;

(ii) more effective use of existing, and the development of new, regional and national cloud-resolving models;

(iii) enhanced global weather models; and

(iv) integrated assessment models;

(E) quantitative assessment tools for measuring the impact and value of data and observing systems, including Observing System Simulation Experiments (as described in section 107), Observing System Experiments, and Analyses of Alternatives;

(F) atmospheric chemistry and interactions essential to accurately characterizing atmospheric composition and predicting meteorological processes, including cloud microphysical, precipitation, and atmospheric electrification processes, to more effectively understand their role in severe weather; and

(G) additional sources of weather data and information, including commercial observing systems.

(4) A technology transfer initiative, carried out jointly and in coordination with the Director of the National Weather Service, and in cooperation with the United States weather industry and academic partners, to ensure continuous development and transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into operations of the National Weather Service and to establish a process to sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into operations.

(c) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research shall collaborate with and support the non-Federal weather research community, which includes

Collaboration.

"(iii) the plan for operationalization, including which line office will financially support the project and how much the line office intends to spend;

"(6) establish teams with staff from the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service to oversee the operationalization of research products developed by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

"(7) develop mechanisms for research priorities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to be informed by the relevant line offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the relevant user community, and the weather enterprise;

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