



North American Interstate Weather Modification Council

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"Facilitating the exchange of interstate/interprovincial atmospheric resource management information."

NEWS

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WEATHER MODIFICATION COUNCIL APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF S.1807, ESTABLISHING WEATHER MITIGATION ADVISORY AND RESEARCH BOARD

DENVER, CO. - The North American Interstate Weather Modification Council (NAIWMC) applauds the introduction of Senate bill S.1807, which would create a weather mitigation advisory and research board. The board would review and fund proposals for research in the area of weather damage mitigation, commonly known as cloud seeding.

A 2003 report by the National Research Council recommended a federal research program in weather damage mitigation. If passed, the legislation would make available \$5 million per year for ten years to further develop and improve existing technologies.

“We see potential for research in this area and the bill I’ve filed would direct the development of a comprehensive and coordinated national research effort through federal and state programs,” said bill sponsor Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). “Specifically, the legislation will bring agencies, departments, experts, and scientists together to foster collaboration on research in an area about which we know little. This could have great potential for Texas and for the nation.”

Ten western states are currently operating cloud seeding programs to increase precipitation, reduce damaging hail and disperse fogs. More than \$10 million per year is spent by states and local sponsors for existing programs.

“The western states with weather modification programs will benefit greatly from the passage of this bill,” said Joe Busto, NAIWMC Chairman. “Better understanding our atmospheric resources will be invaluable in long term planning for decreasing snowpacks, water shortages, drought sensitivity, crop losses, and population growth already occurring in the West. The Council looks forward to working with Senator Hutchison and Congress toward the passage of this bill.”

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