

Opposition to SB6 – The Nevada Legislature is considering a bill to fund the Desert Research Institute Cloud Seeding Program with \$1.2 million of taxpayer money for the next 2 years.

Good afternoon. Bob Russo for the record. I oppose SB6 for several reasons.

From what I understand, the general viewpoint about cloud seeding using primarily silver iodide is that its usefulness is slim at best. In fact, what benefits it may have by increasing precipitation in one area may be detrimental or create a deficit to a nearby area.

And we certainly do not know the long-term effects silver iodide has on human health – for example, how does silver iodide react with other pollutants in the atmosphere? How will these various compounds affect human health?

Then, how will increased precipitation potentially impact local plant and soil conditions? We know that Nevada lacks grasslands with extensive root systems in the soil. This can make them prone to flooding and erosion.

And then what do we know about the effects of silver iodide on soils, plants, and water including aquatic life? Are there toxicity risk factors?

According to an August 2022 article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, “silver iodide is known to be toxic and is regulated under the clean water act.” The article goes on to claim that certain studies have shown “the potential harms from bioaccumulation, especially aquatic life.”

(Source: Dodging Silver Bullets: How Cloud Seeding Could Go Wrong – Laura Kuhl 8-11-2022 – Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)

We need more research on the long-term effects of cloud seeding. We need to clearly understand its long-term effects on our desert ecosystems, wildlife, flora, livestock, crops, and so importantly, human health, before we carelessly throw tax dollars into a program with so many uncertainties.

Financially, \$1.2 million dollars for a state funded program is a lot of money. What are the guarantees that this program will not seek more funds in the future, especially given that, to my knowledge, the program has no sunset clause?

Given so many unanswered questions about cloud seeding plus its fiscal impact, I ask you to please oppose SB6.