

July 18, 2005

The Honorable Mark Udall
240 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Fax: (202) 226-7840

Dear Mr. Udall:

In conversations with your Washington office staff, I have learned that you have introduced a bill that would establish a formal federal structure for the advancement of weather modification research. I commend this effort, and would like to invite you to visit NCAR's Boulder laboratories, where a group of scientists specializing in weather modification would be happy to brief you on the latest developments in their field.

The United States had a significant federal investment in weather modification research and development until the 1980's. In the last two decades, very modest funding has been distributed to the states through NOAA, but without an open, competitive call for research proposals. This has locked many research groups, including NCAR's, out of federal funding for weather modification science. Since 1996, NCAR's rainfall enhancement research program has received more than 95 percent of its funding from outside the U.S.

I am pleased to see that, under the bill, the Weather Modification Advisory and Research Board would reflect the diverse set of organizations invested in weather research, including NCAR. NCAR scientists are actively involved in weather modification research, leading studies in purposeful weather modification, like rainfall enhancement, as well as anthropogenic climate change. NCAR's weather modification research is centered at our Research Applications Laboratory, which conducts directed research and engineering toward the solution to problems relevant to society, and facilitates the transfer of the information, expertise, and technology to the public and private sectors.

We would be pleased to work with you and your staff to prepare a briefing tailored to your needs as this legislation advances through Congress. Possible briefing topics could include:

- Cloud seeding
- Aerosols and precipitation
- Anthropogenic versus natural aerosols
- Global climate change issues

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Weather modification research has great potential to help us better understand the atmospheric processes that affect weather and weather modification. Please let us know if we can assist in any other way, and thank you for considering visiting us for a briefing. Cindy Schmidt (303-497-2107, cschmidt@ucar.edu), will be in touch with your office to discuss a schedule. Again, thank you for your time and your continued strong support of environmental research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Anthes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "A".

Richard A. Anthes
President

cc: Kaitie O'Hara