

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2/1/05
HB 399

Members of the Committee, I appear today on behalf of Montana Farmers Union in support of HB399. Our organization has attended a number of educational conferences concerning this issue and find that different applications are available and implemented across the United States. The majority are projects in the high plains from Alberta, Canada and south to Texas, all started in response to drought, hail damage or both. In Calgary, Alberta, the insurance industry has paid for hail suppression projects for the last several years and have renewed the project contracts for another 5 years. They feel the investment is worthwhile. Over the years the technology has advanced and we can take advantage of the research data and computer modeling capabilities that are now utilized.

While we know that weather modification is not going to break the drought, we believe in the concepts outlined in this bill, which will augment snow and be a tool for use in hail suppression.

Montana Farmers Union's membership of some 2600 farm and ranch families urge your support of this bill and thank Representative Rice for bringing it forth.

"Chris" Christensen