



Resolution 26-04

Resolution type: Legislative Directive

**A Resolution Supporting Transparency, Monitoring, and Interagency
Coordination Regarding Atmospheric Modification and Geoengineering
Activities Affecting Montana Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Ratepayers**
Submitted by: Valley County CD

BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE

WHEREAS, the Valley Conservation District is committed to the protection, conservation, and responsible stewardship of Montana's soil, water, air, agricultural lands, and natural resources for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Montana farmers, ranchers, landowners, and citizens have expressed concern regarding atmospheric aerosol activities, weather modification practices, geoengineering proposals, and the potential environmental and agricultural impacts associated with such activities; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 473, requested by Senator Bob Phalen, sought to prohibit certain geoengineering and weather modification activities within the State of Montana while preserving traditional cloud seeding practices authorized under Montana law; and

WHEREAS, clean air, uncontaminated precipitation, healthy soil, reliable water supplies, and environmental transparency are essential to Montana agriculture, livestock production, wildlife habitat, and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, emerging technologies involving atmospheric modification, weather intervention systems, geoengineering proposals, or large-scale environmental experimentation may

involve significant electrical infrastructure, telecommunications systems, water consumption, or utility-supported operations affecting Montana citizens and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Public Service Commission exists to protect the public interest regarding regulated utilities and infrastructure affecting Montana consumers and communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments, conservation districts, and citizens deserve transparency and access to accurate information regarding any federally authorized, state authorized, private, or experimental atmospheric activities that may affect Montana's environment, agricultural economy, or utility infrastructure;

LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN LEGISLATION DRAFTED BY MACD

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Valley Conservation District supports increased transparency, public disclosure, monitoring, and interagency coordination regarding atmospheric aerosol injection activities, geoengineering proposals, and weather modification practices that may impact Montana agriculture, natural resources, or rural communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Valley Conservation District encourages the Montana Legislature, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Public Service Commission, and appropriate federal agencies to:

- Provide public disclosure of permitted atmospheric modification or weather-related activities conducted over Montana;
- Conduct or support independent testing and monitoring of precipitation, soil, surface water, and air quality where concerns have been raised;
- Ensure local governments and conservation districts are notified of proposed atmospheric modification or geoengineering projects affecting their jurisdictions;
- Protect Montana agriculture, livestock production, water resources, wildlife habitat, private property rights, and utility ratepayers from unintended environmental or economic impacts; and

- Examine whether additional state oversight or interagency coordination may be necessary regarding utility-supported or industrial-scale atmospheric modification activities affecting Montana citizens and natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Montana Legislature, Montana Congressional Delegation, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Public Service Commission, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.

SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE

It has been brought to the attention of our local state representatives and legislators.

HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, BE INVOLVED WITH, AND TRACK THIS RESOLUTION BEFORE AND DURING THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

Valley County Conservation District will stay in contact and communicate with our state representation to the Montana Legislature.

ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH?

None known.

HOW WOULD THIS POLICY IMPACT MACD?

No Impact.

WOULD THIS POLICY STATEMENT IMPACT THE STATE BUDGET? IF SO, HOW?

Potentially the Montana Public Service Commission Budget could be affected.

MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY

Valley County Conservation District monthly meeting, June 5, 2026

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S)

Gene Granada, Valley County Conservation District Chairman

Jeff Pattison, VCCD Vice Chairman

Jody Mason, VCCD Secretary

John Bach VCCD Treasurer

Tyler Thieven, Ron Stoneberg, Jeff Sather, VCCD Supervisors