

Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

March 12, 2025

RE: LD 499, An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering, and LD 825, An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering, Including the Use of Cloud Seeding, Weather Modification, Excessive Radio Waves and Microwave Radiation

Dear Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera, and Members of the ENR Committee:

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to *LD 499, An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering* and *LD 825, An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering, Including the Use of Cloud Seeding, Weather Modification, Excessive Radio Waves and Microwave Radiation*.

Maine Audubon opposes both LD 499 and LD 825 as premature and unnecessary proposals at this time. Banning geoengineering outright, without scientific and technical evidence that a particular technology is being used and/or has an impact on our environment or citizens is unwarranted policy. Furthermore, it could preemptively limit future technologies that could become available to help address climate change through carbon sequestration enhancement or storage.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) is currently required by law to track weather modification activities by others, including cloud seeding, which is specifically mentioned in LD 825.¹ Those reports are publicly filed and are available on NOAA's Central Library website.² We are not concerned that the use of cloud seeding, weather modification, or excessive radio waves and microwave radiation are of current threat to Maine people, wildlife, or our environment.

If specific impacts from geoengineering are identified to affect Maine people, wildlife, or our environment in the future, Maine Audubon would be enthusiastic to comment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright
Policy Advocate

¹ NOAA (Oct 2023), Fact Check - Debunking Weather Modification Claims - <https://www.noaa.gov/news/fact-check-debunking-weather-modification-claims>

² NOAA (n.d.), Weather Modification Project Reports - <https://library.noaa.gov/weather-climate/weather-modification-project-reports>