

March 23, 2006

Los Angeles California Protest Rally Against U.S. Senate Bill 517

By Rosalind Peterson

A highly successful protest rally was held near the Los Angeles City Hall on Thursday, March 23, 2006, in order to oppose U.S. Senate Bill 517 and U.S. House Bill 2995. This bill would establish a National Weather Modification Policy and implement national weather modification experiments.

Many Los Angeles residents, people from throughout the State of California, and individuals from across the United States, from as far away as the State of West Virginia, traveled across the country to attend this event. The organizers of this event, Kathy Ornstein, founder of the organization "Right To Breathe Healthy Air", and Anne Berg both from Los Angeles, Bridget Conroy from Arizona, and Rosalind Peterson, from Northern California, joined forces earlier this year to oppose the establishment of a weather modification policy (Senate Bill 517), that would adversely impact our food supply, agricultural crop growing seasons and our water supplies.

The story does not end here as the Agriculture Defense Coalition moves their message east across the United States toward Washington, D.C. The next educational forum and demonstration rally opposing U.S. Senate Bill 517 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Concerned grassroots citizens are involved in this educational protest movement to protect agriculture from unwise experimental weather modification programs. "We, the people, simply will not accept this reckless experimenting on our weather and are fighting the passage of this bill."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and our elected representatives have not yet stepped forward to protect our food and water supplies from these experimental programs. Since our elected representatives will not protect agriculture it is up to the people to step forward and fight to protect our food and water supplies and demand that our elected representatives oppose this bill. Numerous calls and letters from the people to their respective representatives have been ignored or, if answered at all, were off-topic form letters.

Another part of the story is that we are being "blacked out" not only by our elected representatives but the mainstream media as well. Newspapers and television stations totally ignored our protest in Los Angeles on March 23rd, 2006. The blackout was so complete that E-Mails and telephone calls from California residents and from individuals across the United States, Canada and England contacted us to find out if our protest rally was even held. The only voices speaking for the people were a handful of courageous radio talk show hosts in England, Canada, and the United States, who were willing to bring the issue to public attention. Several independent, small newspapers, independent websites, and Internet news outlets also carried the story.

The event in Los Angeles outlined the fact that this bill has no public or agriculture oversight, does not consider the synergistic effects of over fifty current U.S. experimental weather modification programs and, in most cases, does not regulate private weather modification companies and the chemicals they use. The Commerce Department, according to this bill, will appoint a board made up of individuals only interested in modifying your weather. This board will draft a weather modification policy for all of us, implement and then promote a United States Experimental Weather Modification Policy without public oversight or agricultural interests being represented.

Our food supply is now at risk from current experimental programs and the ability of private companies to hire unregulated private firms to modify your weather for private financial benefit. In essence one segment of our government or a private corporation can steal water or snow from another area of our country. Agricultural production and water supplies are at risk from over fifty current and ongoing weather modification programs (NOAA). Senate Bill 517, if passed, will allow more experimental programs and further jeopardize crop production and water supplies for many of us.

Also all experimental programs use unregulated and sometimes unknown or experimental toxic chemicals in their experiments. These chemicals, used at unknown levels, will pollute our water and enter our food supply.

Scott Stevens, a meteorologist from Idaho Falls, spoke at length on current weather modification programs and their detrimental impacts on our weather. He noted that there were several military and government programs in operation at this time like the H.A.A.R.P program in Alaska. Many questions were asked by those in the audience about the extent of these programs and how such programs were implemented and their impact on our weather. Future educational demonstration rallies against these unregulated experimental weather modification programs are planned in the near future to answer your questions and to provide the public with information about the government reports on these programs.

Several others speakers addressed the effect that current programs are having on our weather and also the effect of persistent jet contrails that are changing our climate through the formation of artificial man-made clouds. Persistent contrails also exacerbate global warming and change our climate. It should be noted that ground-based astronomy could be impossible in the near future because of pollution from jet fuel emissions, pollution from rocket fuel, like perchlorate, and persistent jet contrails which produce artificial man-made clouds or white haze. These artificial clouds will also decrease the effectiveness of solar panels and solar powered automobiles. The H.A.A.R.P. program in Alaska, electromagnetic testing programs, atmospheric heating and testing programs also impact our weather and pollute our atmosphere with a wide variety of chemicals like Barium and (TMA) Trimethyl Aluminum.

Many of the chemicals used in weather modification programs coupled with jet fuel emissions make our rain more acidic, damage trees and crops, and may have adverse human health impacts. In a 1999, EPA report on Jet Fuel Emissions, is the following information on the human health and crop adverse impacts:

SUBSONIC JET EMISSIONS REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PA420-R-99-013 - Final Report "Evaluation of Air Pollutant Emissions from Subsonic Commercial Jet Aircraft", U.S. Environmental Protection Agency April 1999. Excerpts from this report are reprinted below:

"Public Health and Aircraft Emissions":

"Ultimately, EPA's principal concern in evaluating and controlling (jet fuel) emissions is the preservation of human health and, secondarily, the protection of public welfare (including protection against damage to crops, vegetation, animals, and buildings)...In particular, they have significant concerns regarding the effect of NO_x on local and regional environments. Tropospheric NO_x has multiple environmental quality impacts...contributing to ground-level O₃ and PM, but also air toxic concentrations, excess nitrogen loads to sensitive water bodies, and acidification of sensitive ecosystems (EPA 1997a)." (PM = Particulate Matter)

"Table 1.1 Representative health effects of air pollutants." Jet Emission Pollutants:

'Ozone - Lung function impairment, effects on exercise performance, increased airway responsiveness, increased susceptibility to respiratory infection, increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, and pulmonary inflammation, lung structure damage. (Examples of these effects are chronic inflammation and structural damage to lung tissue and accelerated decline in baseline lung function.)"

"Carbon Monoxide - Cardiovascular effects, especially in those persons with heart conditions...Similar health effects on animals as on humans."

"Nitrogen Oxides - Lung irritation and lower resistance to respiratory infections. Premature mortality, aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, changes in lung function and increased respiratory symptoms, changes to lung tissues and structure, and altered respiratory defense mechanisms..." (Asthmatics are especially sensitive.)

"Volatile Organic Compounds - Eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, and memory impairment."

"Table 1.2 Representative Environmental Effects:

Ozone - Crop damage, damage to trees and decreased resistance to disease for both crops and other plants. (Ground-level ozone interferes with the ability of plants to produce and store food so that growth, reproduction and overall plant health are compromised. By weakening trees and other plants, ozone can make plants more susceptible to disease, insect attacks, and harsh weather ...Ground level ozone can also kill or damage leaves so that they fall off the plants too soon or become spotted and brown...")

“Nitrogen Oxides - Acid rain, visibility degradation, particle formation, contribution towards ozone formation. NO₂ is an important precursor to both ozone and acidic precipitation, which harms both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems...NO_x also plays a role in the formation of acid rain. Acid rain causes surface water acidification and damages trees...NO_x contributes to the formation of particles in the atmosphere, with the resulting health and visibility effects...”

“Particulate Matter - Visibility degradation and...safety effects for aircraft from reduced visibility. (PM is the generic term for a broad class of chemically and physically diverse substances that exist as discrete particles...over a wide range of sizes...PM may either be emitted directly or formed in the atmosphere by the transformations of gaseous emissions of compounds including NO_x, VOCs, and sulfur oxides SO_x...In addition to the evidence found for health effects associated with aggravation of asthma and increased respiratory illness, and that they may be chronic health effects associated with long-term exposure to high concentrations of coarse particles (FR, July 18, 1997)...”

"...the nature of the effects that have been reported to be associated with ambient PM, including premature mortality, aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular disease...change in lung function and increased respiratory symptoms, changes to lung tissues and structure, and altered respiratory defense mechanisms; and sensitive sub-populations that appear to be at greater risk to such effects, specifically individuals with respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and the elderly...children, asthmatic children and adults..."

“Volatile Organic Compounds - Contribution towards ozone formation, odors, and some direct effect on buildings and plants." (...They can arise from evaporation or incomplete fuel combustion. As a class, VOCs react with NO_x in the atmosphere to form ozone, but individual VOCs may have additional health effects. Some VOCs have little or no known direct health effect, while other VOCs, such as benzene, are carcinogens...Eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, and memory impairment are among the immediate symptoms that some people have experienced soon after exposure to some organics...At high levels, VOCs can have a damaging effect on plants...VOCs that contain chlorine can also contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion.)..."

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC Special Report - Aviation and the Global Atmosphere - Summary for Policymakers – 1999:

"2. How Do Aircraft Affect Climate and Ozone? Aircraft emit gases and particles directly into the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere where they have an impact on atmospheric composition. These gases and particles...trigger formation of condensation trails (contrails)..."

"4.6 Cirrus Clouds. Extensive cirrus clouds have been observed to develop after the formation of persistent contrails. Increases in cirrus cloud cover (beyond those identified as line-shaped contrails) are found to be positively correlated with aircraft emissions..."

*Note: The full report is available online at:
<http://www.epa.gov/oms/regs/nonroad/aviation/r99013.pdf> or on the EPA Website.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. If JP-4 or JP-8 Jet Fuel consists of a complex mixture of hydrocarbons, including poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), naphthalene and benzene (known carcinogens), how will increasing jet fuel emissions impact public health?
2. When will our elected officials direct our local air pollution districts to start testing our air for barium (salts), aluminum (oxides), perchlorate, cadmium, manganese, magnesium, lead, iron, tungsten,

carcinogenic poly aromatic hydrocarbons like naphthalene and benzene, and toxic perfluorocarbon tracers that exacerbate global warming?

3. Are fine particles of aluminum oxide and other highly refractive metals being released by jets over our state along with aluminum coated fiberglass (Chaff)? According to the United States Air Force Website the military releases about 500 tons of Chaff each year. What are the human health impacts?

4. Commercial, private, military, experimental, and other types of aircraft usage is increasing across the United States and their fuel emissions are increasing the amount of air pollution in our atmosphere. When you add the fuel for rockets (like the toxic perchlorate), the space shuttle and other unmanned vehicles our atmosphere becomes a toxic pea soup. What impact does the synergistic effect of all these fuels have on public health, our climate, and on agriculture?

5. New studies show that jet release water vapor into the atmosphere and that this increase in water vapor is not harmless, as once thought, but has been shown to be one of the major causes of the current warming trend.

6. The impact of persistent jet contrails that produce a white haze or produce artificial man-made clouds has been an increase in humidity, which allows for molds, fungus, and mildew to proliferate. In addition, when persistent jet contrails are present daytime temperatures are lower and nighttime temperatures are higher. This type of climate change stresses our trees and can lead to lower crop production and an increase in pests which would be naturally controlled by lower humidity and higher day and nighttime temperatures. When you add increasing cloud cover it creates a lack of direct sunlight that can reduce crop production and directly change local climate patterns.

A special thank you to all who have supported our efforts to bring these issues to public attention. U.S. Senate Bill 517 and U.S. House Bill 2995 could be brought up for a Congressional vote anytime with less than 24 hours notice. Please contact your elected representatives and let them know you are opposed to this experimental weather modification bill. Join us in Arizona as we move east across the United States to Washington, D.C., and protect our agriculture crop production growing cycles and water supplies from experimental weather modification programs.

For More Information Regarding the Phoenix, Arizona Educational Forum and Protest Rally Against U.S. Senate Bill 517 on Saturday, April 29, 2006, (11 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Guest Speakers, Music, Documents & Posters) Please Contact:

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