

## VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL

November 10, 2025

Brian Stone  
Acting Director  
National Science Foundation (NSF)  
2415 Eisenhower Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[bstone@nsf.gov](mailto:bstone@nsf.gov)

Re: *Request to Terminate Federal Funding of Geoengineering Research*

Dear Acting Director Stone:

On behalf of our client, Informed Consent Action Network (“ICAN”), we respectfully urge you to terminate all federal funding by the National Science Foundation (“NSF”) of any geoengineering-related activities including the research and development of solar radiation modification (“SRM”), stratospheric aerosol injection (“SAI”), marine cloud brightening, polar geoengineering, cirrus cloud thinning, and any other geoengineering or climate intervention technologies. Given ICAN’s mission of combatting manmade disease, ICAN is concerned by NSF’s funding of geoengineering and climate intervention research activities as it could adversely affect Americans’ health and the environment.

### **I. NSF SHOULD TERMINATE ALL FUNDING OF GEOENGINEERING RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES TO RESPECT THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Since at least 2010, NSF has used taxpayer-supported federal funding to award more than \$6.3 million in grants to advance geoengineering research across multiple institutions.<sup>1</sup> In a 2023 Dear Colleague Letter, NSF actively invited and encouraged proposals for geoengineering research to “ameliorate anthropogenic climate change.”<sup>2</sup> At present, NSF is funding over \$2.7 million in active grants to research geoengineering or climate intervention technologies.<sup>3</sup> Such vast expenditures of federal funding toward geoengineering research could “contribute to the perception that geoengineering is an appropriate and important area of research as global temperatures rise” and that such research is supported by the taxpayers.<sup>4</sup>

Yet, geoengineering research and the federal funding of geoengineering research violate the will of the American people. In the last two years, more than thirty states have introduced bills

<sup>1</sup> This figure is derived from analysis of more than thirty grant entries available on [www.usaspending.gov](http://www.usaspending.gov).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/dcl-co2-removal-solar-radiation-modification-strategies-science/nsf23-151>.

<sup>3</sup> See NSF grant Nos. 2017113, 2218758, 2218777, 2218785, and 2417874.

<sup>4</sup> <https://climate.mit.edu/posts/us-government-developing-solar-geoengineering-research-plan>.

to ban geoengineering, with Tennessee, Florida, and Louisiana passing laws to prohibit such activities within their states.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, funding geoengineering research to “ameliorate anthropogenic climate change” directly contradicts President Trump’s commitment to eliminating taxpayer funding for the “globalist climate agenda.”<sup>6</sup> Thus, every dollar spent on geoengineering research, development, and validation of any such technology defies the stated intent of many Americans and the policy goals of the current administration.

Additionally, given the sums NSF has invested in geoengineering research, NSF should be aware of the grave risks and potentially irreversible affects geoengineering poses to human health and the environment if research is continued and ultimately deployed. Even its proponents admit deployment could have potentially catastrophic effects on weather, agriculture, natural ecosystems, and human health if deployed.<sup>7</sup>

Specifically, proponents of SRM acknowledge deployment could lead to stratospheric ozone depletion,<sup>8</sup> global food production and biodiversity disruptions,<sup>9</sup> increases in air pollution and UV exposure-related premature mortality,<sup>10</sup> disruptions of local and regional weather patterns leading to intensified droughts or flooding,<sup>11</sup> disruptions of monsoon cycles which provide critical rain to agriculture,<sup>12</sup> ocean acidification,<sup>13</sup> increased acid deposition resulting in air pollution and acid rain,<sup>14</sup> diminution of solar power systems,<sup>15</sup> geopolitical conflicts over control of the global thermostat,<sup>16</sup> and unintended warming or excessive cooling due to uncertainty in estimates of the amount of SRM needed. Because it would be impossible to precisely define and limit the target impact area of SRM to a particular nation, SRM conducted in one country may adversely affect neighboring countries and cause international conflicts. Furthermore, there are unknown health risks to SRM as the chemicals being discussed for SRM, namely sulfur dioxide, sulfate aerosols, aluminum oxide, calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide and diamond dust, have not been sufficiently studied to ensure safety. SRM proponents acknowledge these risks while simultaneously acknowledging that the effects of SRM, good or bad, are incredibly complex and unknowable without the full-scale deployment of SRM and assessment of its impacts.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://srm360.org/us-bans/> (<https://perma.cc/ZS4M-WN65>).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Ending-the-Green-New-Scam-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/25762/chapter/4#90> (<https://perma.cc/8AZK-M3U3>).

<sup>8</sup> <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/25762/chapter/4#43> (<https://perma.cc/AA5B-MNFK>).

<sup>9</sup> <https://perma.cc/R526-5X87>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/10/1/00047/195026/Stratospheric-aerosol-injection-may-impact-global> (<https://perma.cc/J43T-45RC>).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-73149-6> (<https://perma.cc/FJ99-A2YC>).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/00963402.2008.11461140?needAccess=true>.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/climate/articles/10.3389/fclim.2021.720312/full> (<https://perma.cc/U29Q-6XMH>).

<sup>17</sup> <https://phys.org/news/2024-09-climate-crisis-scientists.html> (<https://perma.cc/R526-5X87>).

In sum, the American people oppose all geoengineering-related activities, including research, experimentation, and technological development, as these activities present profound and unacceptable risks to our national security, humanity's survival, and the planet's delicate ecosystems. NSF must not continue to ignore these risks, the will of the American people, and the policy goals of the Trump administration and must immediately terminate all funding of geoengineering-related research and activities.

## II. ACTIONS REQUESTED

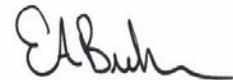
ICAN implores NSF to take the following steps to immediately halt all NSF-funded geoengineering-related research and activities:

- 1. Implement an agency-wide policy terminating all current funding of any geoengineering research, technological development, experimentation, or deployment to protect the American people and the environment from the potentially devastating consequences of geoengineering.**
- 2. Implement an agency-wide policy prohibiting any future funding of geoengineering research, technological development, experimentation, and deployment to protect the American people and the environment from the potentially devastating consequences of geoengineering.**
- 3. Make all geoengineering-related spending, research, and reports publicly available on NSF's website to fully inform the public on the purpose, scale, projected impact, and potential risks of geoengineering activities.**
- 4. Audit all geoengineering-related contracts and grants since Fiscal Year 2015 and make all such records publicly available on NSF's website.**
- 5. Redirect NSF spending to research that advances national health through data-driven programs to empower Americans to make truly informed decisions about their own health and the health of their families.**

We urge NSF to take the actions above on behalf of the American people and our planet. Geoengineering-related activities defy the will of the American people; divert resources from genuine national needs; and increase the risk of potentially irreversible environmental damage, catastrophic public-health impacts, and international disputes – each of which alone could cripple our nation.

We look forward to a prompt response explaining what actions NSF will take. Thank you for your time and consideration to this important matter of human health and national security.

Sincerely,



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