



SB0246 - Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment

Date: February 2, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Victoria Venable, Maryland Director - Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **SB0246 - Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment**.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We believe that the Chesapeake Bay, and its surrounding watersheds and wetlands, are a crucial tool in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Therefore, we support policies that protect the health of our watersheds in Maryland, such as SB0246.

The Chesapeake Bay ecosystem serves as a significant carbon sink in our state, absorbing and storing “blue carbon” in coastal habitats for hundreds or even thousands of years. Unfortunately, road salt used for deicing can compromise the health of our watersheds and reduce the ability of the Bay to absorb carbon by disrupting the ecosystem. SB0246 addresses this crucial issue by requiring the Department of the Environment to establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program to encourage efficient winter maintenance that balances the need to deice our roads, parking lots, and sidewalks with the environmental integrity of our watersheds.

We believe that this bill is an important policy addition to our efforts to protect the Bay and the watershed that feeds into it. Thank you for your consideration of SB0246. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.

CONTACT: Victoria Venable, Maryland Director
Victoria@chesapeakeclimate.org (301) 960-8824