



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 246 – Environment – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 246 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 246 requires the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program to encourage commercial applicators to use efficient winter maintenance strategies through the use of salt or salt alternatives. The MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) manages a robust winter operations system that touches all regions of the State of Maryland and takes pride in our dedication and focus on winter maintenance environmental stewardship. Techniques used to encourage environmentally friendly application of salt include monitoring the usage and applying best practices. Over the past seven years, the MDOT SHA’s internal and external chloride reduction efforts have led to a significant decrease in chloride impacting Maryland waterways. The MDOT SHA has had a productive dialogue with the MDE, informing the agency of our salt application practices and encouraging education of environmental stewardship with the goal of protecting Maryland’s waterways.

The MDOT SHA does request clarification on who is included in the definition of “commercial applicators.” The bill text specifically excludes state employees from the definition of “commercial applicators,” however it is not clear if applicators working under contract with State agencies and using State salt materials are excluded from participating in the proposed program.

The MDOT respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 246.

Sincerely,

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