



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2W
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 246 –Environment – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or Department) has reviewed SB 246, *Environment – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment*, and would like to offer a letter of information about this legislation.

SB 246 requires MDE to establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program to encourage best management practices for winter maintenance of roadways, parking lots and sidewalks; and requires commercial applicators to be certified on or before a certain date, and to maintain a valid certification. The Department understands that while treatment for ice and snow is a priority in keeping Maryland citizens safe and our roads clear for business, road salt can have adverse impacts on public health, infrastructure, and the environment.

For that reason, MDE is currently working under an Interagency Agreement with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin to develop educational materials for a statewide voluntary training program for Maryland applicators by June 30, 2022. The target audiences for the materials include Maryland local government employees, commercial applicators, property managers, and the public. The materials will address non-highway roads, parking lots, and sidewalks.

The Department has established partnerships with Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, Izaak Walton League, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and other organizations to encourage voluntary best management practices for winter maintenance of roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks. The Department has developed outreach materials, including flyers, a [website](#), and easy to read [StoryMaps](#) that discuss best management practices for using salt and salt alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor SB 246 during the committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Tyler Abbott

cc: Lee Currey, MDE, Director, Water and Science Administration