



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 216**

Environment – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment

Date: February 8, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support

From: Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 216 which establishes a training and certification program for commercial salt applicators.

Chesapeake Bay's thousands of freshwater tributaries rely on consistent water quality to sustain native plant and animal communities. Over-application of salts containing chlorides has been documented to cause significant harm to aquatic ecosystems, especially high-quality streams that contain sensitive species.

A recent study in Baltimore County found that 10% of wells had chlorides levels that were greater than 50 mg/l and that there was a positive correlation between distance to a road and wells with elevated chloride levels. Concentrations of chloride in streams and reservoirs has doubled over the last 30 years. Concentrations of chlorides peak during winter months, but do not return to baseline levels in the summer. Chlorides are building up in the groundwater system. <sup>1</sup>

For these reasons, **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 216.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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<sup>1</sup>Observed Impacts of Chlorides in Baltimore County, Presented by: Kevin Koepenick Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability