



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

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February 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Chair Carrie Ruud
95 University Avenue West
MN Senate Building Room 3233
St. Paul MN 55155

Re: Support of the Certified Salt Applicator Program and SF2768

Dear Chair Ruud:

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts submits this letter in support of SF2768, a bill being heard in your committee this week. As the chief author, you know the importance of this legislation as it establishes a voluntary certification program and limits liability for commercial salt applicators when they become certified and follow appropriate best management practices when applying deicers.

While many of our watershed districts have been working on reducing chloride pollution for many years now, this would be a welcome and important addition to our efforts. There is no easy way to remove chloride from our lakes, rivers, and wetlands once it gets there. It is considered a permanent pollutant. Prevention is our best and really our only option for limiting the negative impacts of excess chlorides in our waters. This pollutant comes from several sources, but one easily reduced source comes when applicators overapply salt hoping to reduce their risk against slip and fall lawsuits. But with proper training and limited liability protections for those certified, we believe a difference can be made.

Thank you for authoring and hearing this bill. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance in getting this bill passed this year.

Sincerely,

Emily Javens, PE
Executive Director

cc: Matthew Elfritz, Administrator, Environment & Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee