



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

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March 1, 2022

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Chair Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee  
3207 Minnesota Senate Bldg  
St. Paul MN 55155

**Re: Support of the Certified Salt Applicator Program and SF2768**

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen:

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts submits this letter in support of SF2768, a bill being heard in your committee this week. As you have heard over the past several years, this bill establishes a voluntary training 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 hearing this bill and we ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Emily Javens, PE  
Executive Director

cc: Jesse McArdell, Administrator, Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee