



## **Support for SF 2768 (Ruud) / HF2908 (Fischer) Smart Salting Bill**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Members:

The organizations listed below support the smart salting bill - SF 2768 (Ruud) / HF 2908 (Fischer) - and encourage you to support this bipartisan bill so that it can become law during the 2022 legislative session.

Salt (chloride) pollution is a significant and growing problem in Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes. One teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water, and once chloride is in a lake, it is nearly impossible to remove. 50 Minnesota lakes and streams are already listed as impaired by chloride pollution, with another 75 water bodies nearing levels that harm aquatic life.

Frequently, salt is overapplied because visible piles of salt are thought to create safe sidewalks, parking lots and roadways. However, far less salt, applied in the right conditions, is optimal - both for our lakes and for safety. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has created a smart salting training course that has been extremely successful at educating salt applicators and informing the public about the best ways to safely and effectively apply salt while avoiding overuse.

SF 2768 (Ruud) / HF 2908 (Fischer) would establish salt best management practices in statute, a voluntary certification program, and limit the liability of certified applicators who follow these practices. With several years of experience of successfully conducting smart salting training using the Clean Water Fund and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, it's time to make the training and certification permanent, and provide certainty to applicators who follow best practices.

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota. Please take action so that we can protect our lakes and rivers from chloride pollution through this innovative, collaborative, and successful program.

Sincerely,

Audubon Minnesota  
Conservation Minnesota  
Clean River Partners  
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)  
Clean Water Action Minnesota  
Freshwater  
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Friends of the Mississippi River  
Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas  
Minnesota Ornithologists Union  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter  
Pollinator Friendly Alliance  
Stop Over Salting  
Vote Climate