



February 15, 2023

Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

We, the undersigned organizations, ask for your support in passing the Smart Salting Bill (HF820/SF755) so that it can become law during the 2023 legislative session. We believe this proposal represents a win-win approach that will protect our precious water resources while supporting small businesses.

The over-use of salt and deicing chemicals is widespread in Minnesota. These compounds contain chloride, an ingredient that is toxic to freshwater fish and other aquatic life. Year after year, these ice-melting chemicals find their way into our lakes, wetlands, and groundwater supplies. Since there is no practical way to remove chloride, it simply accumulates over time, gradually choking the life out of our waterways. One study has already projected that by 2050, some waterbodies in the Twin Cities Metro Area may no longer be able to support aquatic life.

We know that property owners and snow-removal contractors want to be a part of the solution. Smart salting practices emphasize using the correct type and amount of deicer for the given conditions. This not only helps the environment, but saves them money. Unfortunately, many property managers and contractors feel pressured to over-apply ice-melt chemicals in order to alleviate fears of potential lawsuits by those who might not realize that more salt does not always equal more melting.

HF820/SF755 sets up a voluntary approach whereby property managers and snow-removal contractors can become certified in well established, science-based based practices for applying salt and deicing chemicals. Those who become certified and adopt these best practices will receive limited protection from liability arising from snow and ice-related hazards. By incentivizing smart salting in this way, the bill will not only improve environmental outcomes but also help our salt applicators to become more effective, leading to improved public safety outcomes as well as cost savings.

We urge your support in helping to reverse the trend of chloride contamination in our waterbodies by passing HF820/SF755 and expanding the availability and benefits of smart salting training.

Sincerely,



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Capitol Region Watershed District

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

Coon Creek Watershed District

City of Edina

Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission

Freshwater Society

City of Fridley

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

Rice Creek Watershed District

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission

Valley Branch Watershed District

West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission