

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Senator André Jacque

March 15, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. There has been increasing concern for the growing impact of contaminants like road salt accumulating in our precious freshwater, given how easily elevated salt levels can be toxic to a freshwater ecosystem. It's become clear that more is not always better when it comes to the application of road salt under a variety of conditions, but we need to help training catch up to that fact.

Senate Bill 52 provides a voluntary pathway to limited liability for de-icing applicators who attain certification through state-endorsed training, an idea that was adopted by the state of New Hampshire in 2013, followed by Illinois and Colorado (Minnesota also has a state certification program and has proposed similar liability protections in recent legislative sessions).

Commercial applicators with current certification in de-icer training that implement best practices and maintain records of their work, would, under this legislation, receive limited liability from slip and fall lawsuits, as would the businesses that hire them.

Under Senate Bill 52, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would establish criteria for the training and maintain a list of acceptable trainings, as well as certified commercial applicators. The Department would collect no fees for these services.

As many business owners have already learned, the level of service (how effectively parking areas and walkways can be managed for customer satisfaction) and customer safety are actually increased substantially by more efficient salt use and not compromised as once traditionally thought. Business owners can minimize their cumulative impact on the environment by engaging certified salt applicators and implementing best management practices for salt reduction once this legislation has been enacted.

Snow removal and ice prevention impose significant costs to taxpayers and public safety, and adopting best management practices is a great option to save money while protecting public safety and conserving our vital freshwater resource and drinking water for the entire Great Lakes Basin and our lakes, fisheries and tourism.

For example, the City of De Pere has researched and invested in brine for anti-icing and de-icing, including custom mixes for individual weather events, and has seen a 35% reduction to their annual salt budget. And anti-icing De Pere's primary roads before smaller events saves the City thousands in labor and fuel in avoided dispatching of salt trucks altogether.

Chloride accelerates corrosion of metal in vehicles, roads and bridges and prematurely damages pavement, garages, sidewalks and building facades and entrances. Preventing excess road salt reduces damage to infrastructure (one ton of rock salt causes between \$800 and \$3,300 of damage to buildings, bridges and other infrastructure- the cumulative damage resulting from the 365,000 tons of deicers applied each winter in Twin Cities Metro Area is estimated between \$290 million to \$1.2 billion annually according to the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride Management Plan), and having a voluntary certification program can help a lot of stakeholders for winter maintenance feel a lot more confident that they can follow best practices and have protection from frivolous lawsuits. Excess salt also alters and ruins lawns and landscapes since plants can't survive in over-salted soil, and it harms pets and other wildlife. The increased salinity of water makes it taste off as well as causes other health problems.

The widespread use of road salt has led to the steady salinization of surface water and groundwater, threatening freshwater resources and our drinking water and ending up in our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Chloride from salt degrades freshwater ecosystems. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to native aquatic organisms, and our surface water, groundwater and soil have been absorbing virtually all of the salt spread in the state for more than six decades- it doesn't naturally leave our ecosystem, and it just accumulates.

Once salt gets into water it is very difficult to remove. Treatment, like reverse osmosis or ion exchange, is costly to install and even more expensive to operate. It could cost millions or even billions of dollars, so preventing salt from entering our drinking water resources in the first place is the most cost-effective solution. Our neighbor Minnesota currently has 50 chloride-impaired water bodies, with 120 additional water bodies close to the limit, and the known top source of it is deicing salts used as wintertime snow and ice management tools.

This legislation was developed through extensive consultation with the DNR and Wisconsin Salt Wise, a coalition of organizations from across Wisconsin working together to reduce salt pollution in our lakes, streams and drinking water with the goal of educating residents and winter maintenance professionals on salt pollution and solutions, providing training and promoting best practices to reduce salt pollution and recognize contractors committed to using the right amount of salt for conditions.

Again, Senate Bill 52 creates a voluntary, not mandatory, program and incentivizes more commercial applicators to voluntarily take training, and for entities to limit their liability. Our freshwater is a selling point for our communities and we need to keep it that way.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 52.



Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

2023 Senate Bill 52 *Creating a Deicer Certification Program* *March 15, 2023*

Good afternoon, Chair Cowles and members of the Committee. My name is Shannon Haydin, and I am the Storm Water Section Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, for informational purposes, on Senate Bill 52, related to creating a deicer certification program.

Senate Bill 52 would create a voluntary program to certify commercial deicer applicators after they have completed an approved training program and passed an exam that cover methods for snow and ice removal and deicer application that protect water quality.

Chloride in Wisconsin surface waters continues to increase on an annual basis. All 43 of the department's long term trend river monitoring sites are indicating increasing chloride concentrations. This is consistent with trends in the northern United States that have indicated a doubling of chloride concentration in recent decades. There are fifty rivers or streams and one lake listed as impaired for chloride on Wisconsin's Clean Water Act 303d impaired list. Chloride currently accounts for 3 percent of 303d impaired water pollutant listings in Wisconsin. More than half of the existing impaired waters listings for chloride were added in the 2016 and 2018 reporting cycles.

There is no feasible option to remove chloride once exposed in the environment. Chloride budgets developed for states in the northern United States typically list winter deicing salts as the major source of chloride. The department supports actions to proactively reduce deicer use before more surface waters become impaired due to high chloride levels.

The proposed legislation is similar to laws passed in other states such as New Hampshire and similar to legislation proposed in Minnesota. The legislation would create a framework for a voluntary program to train individuals on using the right amount of deicer products at the right time to protect water quality while maintaining public safety. In return, the legislation provides liability protection for certified applicators and property owners who utilize certified applicators if a slip and fall event occurs on property maintained in accordance with approved practices.

In August 2022, the department conducted a survey of business owners and deicer applicators. More than 70 percent of respondents identified slip and fall liability as a major concern leading to the overapplication of deicers.

Studies conducted by the Minnesota Pollutant Control Agency have shown that training individuals on the appropriate application rates for deicers can reduce deicer use between 30 and 70 percent. Additionally, a reduction in winter deicers may lead to a reduction in the amount of chlorides entering a

community's municipal wastewater treatment plant. These potential reductions may assist facilities in discharging chloride concentrations at or below surface water quality limits.

We have greatly appreciated the ongoing dialogue we've had with the author on this bill, and we have one additional item for consideration. If the author is concerned about applicators' ability to remember the best practices learned in the training for an indefinite period of time, they could consider requiring recertification every three to five years.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, we would like to thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



**Municipal Environmental Group
Wastewater Division**

**Testimony of Paul Kent
On behalf of the Municipal Environmental Group – Wastewater Division**

*2023 Senate Bill 52 and Assembly Bill 61
March 15, 2023*

I am here today on behalf of the Municipal Environmental Group–Wastewater Division (MEG Wastewater) to testify in support of this legislation. MEG Wastewater is an organization of over 100 municipalities statewide who own and operate wastewater treatment plants. We represent facilities ranging in size from small sanitary districts to large utilities like Racine and Green Bay. The mission of our members is to protect public health and the environment through the treatment and reclamation of wastewater.

While winter weather is no stranger to our member communities, the use of deicing salt often causes problems for treatment facilities and affects their ability to maintain compliance with their WPDES permits. Such permits often include water quality standards for chloride, a common component of deicing salt. During any winter precipitation or thawing period, deicing salt that has accumulated on roadways, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots is dissolved and transported into community sewer systems through inflow and infiltration. As a result, many of our members' facilities will see large spikes in the amount of chloride entering their treatment plants during these periods. In addition to these peak chloride loads, dissolved deicing salt can migrate into groundwater, which is taken up by our community drinking water wells and eventually transported to our sewer systems. This results in an increase in the baseline levels of chloride in our system.

Today, there are few cost-effective ways to reduce or remove the amount of chloride that enters our treatment plants. In many ways, our facilities are dependent upon upstream actions. Some of our members have worked with third parties to encourage them to reduce the amount of deicing salt being used. However, concerns about potential civil liability are more likely to drive the excessive use of deicing salt each winter. MEG supports this legislation because it removes at least one barrier to this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. For more information contact Paul Kent at pkent@staffordlaw.com or Vanessa Wishart at vwishart@staffordlaw.com.



Hello Chairman Cowles and Committee Members,

I would like to start off by thanking you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members for giving us the opportunity to come before you today and discuss this legislation.

I am Jeremy Johnson and I am here representing The Bruce Company. We are based out of Middleton. We are one of the largest contractors for Snow & Ice, as well as Landscaping, headquartered in Wisconsin. I have 14 years of industry experience and am our Snow Operations Manager of Logistics and Planning. I've also developed our chloride reduction program. I am on the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission's Starkweather Creek Chloride Management Plan steering committee, and I have the Advanced Snow Manager designation from SIMA (Snow and Ice Management Association).

We are absolutely in favor of Senate Bill 52.

This bill would effectively allow those in the snow and ice industry who would like to, begin to manage more appropriately the fine line that exists with environmental impact of chloride-based deicers and the safety of patrons of the properties we manage. Currently, there are no protections for contractors in the snow and ice industry for being brought into lawsuits related to slip and falls that happen in winter on the properties we manage. Despite contractual verbiage trying to reduce our liability for what happens during an on-going snow event or the days after a snow event when the freeze thaw cycle has created conditions beyond our control. The folks in our industry work hard; essentially on call 24/7 from late October through early April. Even so our businesses can become liable for an incident that occurs before our contract terms to respond to a property have been met, generally 1" of snow accumulation. Or because days after a snow event a 1 square foot patch of ice exists on a site that may have dozens of paved acres. There are many other scenarios like drifting, melt and refreeze, long duration events or un-forecasted snowfall that catches everyone by surprise; these things keep us in the snow industry up at night all winter. Because of this high risk of liability our customers see only one option - more salt. When speaking with property owners and managers their main concern is liability; so discussions about salt reduction rarely go very far. Despite all of the knowledge we have in the industry and all of the training we give and receive; ultimately when push comes to shove we are forced to put down more salt than is needed to give the perception of a safer surface; and it isn't even true. In many instances I believe contractors could easily use $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of their current salt with no change in safety. If this legislation were to pass; we would be able to more effectively educate our customers that the science of de-icing is what should determine our salt use and then also allow them the peace of mind that since we are well trained professionals with science on our side, they are protected from the liability that previously loomed.

I'd like to bring up two quick anecdotes.

First, I'd like to say a few words about lawsuits. One recent lawsuit I am aware of we knew nothing about until over two years after the incident occurred. This despite liability limits in our contract verbiage. This despite it having just begun snowing 30 minutes before the incident occurred after

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several days of no snow. This despite our contract terms about when we are to service the property not being met. Even despite our client asking to have us removed from the lawsuit because our client felt we were meeting our obligations of the contract and any liability should be their responsibility. Do I wish that this person had not fallen? Of course! Our teams work extremely hard at all hours of the day and night, sometimes for days on end doing everything we can to make sure folks are able to safely use the properties we manage. In that situation I honestly don't think there is any reasonable way we could have prevented what happened.

The second, and most important, is that several years ago an environmentally focused customer of ours decided that they would like to begin a chloride reduction project with us and their snow program. At that property we went from averaging just over 200,000 pounds of salt per season to using just under 50,000 pounds three years later. That reduction, in that year alone, meant we protected over 45,000,000 gallons of water. All while not having any change in service quality noticed by users of the property and generating real dollar savings for both us and the customer. Honestly the service level probably increased. Everybody wins when we can reduce salt use; but very few people feel like they can reduce salt use when your company is just one slip away from a time consuming and expensive lawsuit.

In conclusion, I hope you will pass this legislation through this committee. Because it is the best tool we have to try to help contractors and property owners around the state do the right thing for the drinking water and lakes/streams that are so critical to Wisconsin's people and economy.

Thank you all for taking the time to listen to me speak.

Jeremy Johnson, ASM

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March 2023

The Snow & Ice Management Association (SIMA) has reviewed Wisconsin Senate Bill 52 and Assembly Bill 61. As the trade association representing over 1,500 snow and ice management companies in North America, SIMA is committed to best practices and professional development training for all professionals working in snow and ice management. We are aware of the negative impacts chlorides used for snow and ice melting have on freshwater sources and natural vegetation. Chlorides also are the most readily available and lowest cost option to enable access to important transportation for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Additionally, chlorides are critically important in assisting in preventing slip and falls and vehicle accidents, which protects the public from harm.

Senate Bill 52 is intended to balance the interests of limiting the amount of chlorides entering freshwater sources while providing liability protection for trained and certified applicators. ***SIMA is in support of this legislation.***

Wisconsin commercial salt applicators should consider the positive aspects of this proposed regulation. It largely replicates the regulation approved and established in New Hampshire in 2013, which offers both virtual education of best practices along with an annual Salt Symposium education program where applicators can renew their training certification. Some specific points in regards to the benefits of this legislation are:

This is a voluntary certification program. This is not mandatory, which gives commercial applicators the option to participate.

Liability protection for commercial applicators. The legislation reads “certified commercial applicator or an owner is not liable for damages arising from a hazard resulting from the accumulation of snow and ice on any real estate maintained by the certified commercial applicator when the hazard is caused solely by snow or ice and the certified commercial applicator used methods for snow and ice removal and deicer application that are taught in a training program approved by the department...” There are exceptions to this which appear reasonable as the language includes “gross negligence or willful or wanton disregard for the safety of entrants”, “intentionally

injures”, or “fails to use methods...taught in a training program...”. Liability offered for certified and trained applicators who adhere to best practices is a positive step in reducing frivolous slip-and-fall claims related to snow and ice conditions.

Protection for fresh water. The use of rock salt for snow and ice melting has led to the salinization of surface water and groundwater. Access to fresh water is a critical component of Wisconsin’s economy, tourism, and quality of life. Creating legislation that promotes the best practices in salt application that balances environmental concerns with the need to protect the public makes sense.

About SIMA

SIMA is the leading professional community for industry practitioners, facility managers and industry partners with a focus on the present and the future. For more information, visit www.sima.org.



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Dear Chairman Cowles and Committee Members,

Casper's Truck Equipment is a family owned business headquartered in Senate District 2, with an additional production facility in Senate District 8. We want to connect with your committee regarding SB-52. Casper's is Wisconsin's leading distributor of Truck Equipment. We work closely with work truck users, snow removal professionals, counties, cities, villages, and townships in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's implementation SB-52 is important to our industry. The impact of this legislation supports companies, government organizations, associations, and Wisconsinites. Improved safety, reduced environmental damage, and cost control are all positive impacts SB-52 will bring to Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has done an excellent job studying and implementing sustainable snow and ice removal procedures at the municipal level. There are multiple funding options, data points, and education sessions provided throughout the year. Counties, cities, villages, townships, and public institutions all receive this information currently. The idea of improved safety, reduced environmental damage, and cost reduction is an exciting concept benefitting Wisconsin.

These proven techniques are trickling down to private companies in Wisconsin. Many private organizations are seeking the same protection and benefits government organizations have adopted successfully. The passage and implementation of SB-52 will impact successful winter snow fighting across Wisconsin.

Casper's appreciates your dedication to SB-52. The legislation is crucial to snow removal operations remaining successful and consistent every winter for every Wisconsinite.

Scott Kirkendall
Casper's Truck Equipment
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Skirkendall@casperstruck.com

James R. Weiss
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Alyson Morris
Clerk



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Chairman Cowles and Committee Members,

I am the Highway Superintendent with the Town of Linn. For many years I have been passionate about winter maintenance and about the use of best management practices in all aspects of winter maintenance. I care very deeply about the health of Wisconsin freshwater and the impacts of what salt can and is doing to it.

My family has vacationed in the Hayward area since the 1940s. We currently own a cabin on the lake that my grandfather started coming to in 1945. My sons are the 4th generation of our family to enjoy fishing and spending time on the water on that flowage. We need to protect our water for current and future generations. Hayward and many other locations across the state are tourist towns. There is no option if their lakes, rivers and flowages cannot be enjoyed.

I began working in winter maintenance at age 13, plowing parking lots for my best friend's dad. When I was old enough to drive, I formed my own business. For over 7 years I worked with 2 different insurance companies. Both had the same message to me regarding salt; a lot of salt is cheaper than a lawsuit. I was encouraged to excessively use salt to protect myself and my insurance company from issues. At a young age, this made sense to me and so I did as I was told. To this day, this practice is repeated time and time again all over the state and all over the country and it is accepted and practiced. This bill will help change this.

Approximately 10 years ago I ran across a gentleman by the name of Tony Johnson. He owns Midwest Salt out of Chicago, Illinois. Midwest Salt started an initiative called "Chloride Conscious". I was eager to hear of his work, as this dealt with private contractors and I had not heard of anything like this outside of the municipal setting. What was so intriguing to me was that a company, a business, who makes money from selling salt, was encouraging people to use less. At first thought, you'd think that is a quick way to go out of business. I posed this question to Mr. Johnson when we first met and he looked me straight in the eye and stated "Matt, this is about the bigger picture". So here was a president of a Salt Company pushing industry best management practices for the "greater good" and I found that to be amazing. We need more people like Tony Johnson.

Since 2003, when I began working on the municipal side of winter maintenance, I have been very fortunate to work with and next to some of the leading professionals in the snow and ice industry. I learned early on there was a lot more to just spreading salt. I like many people, did not know the true impacts of what I was doing every time it

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snowed. I have a fear that even today, there are so many in this industry that do not know how critical their actions are to our fresh water

Last year, I was fortunate to be awarded the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association's ***New Member Impact Award*** for my work regarding snow and ice.

I have helped train thousands of municipal employees to become "certified" applicators and practitioners of snow and ice best management practices in 2 states. After training on best practices like calibration, material application rates for both solids and liquids, including the available technologies that are there to make better and more precise applications, it is common for municipalities to cut their salt use by 30%-40%, however, I have seen instances of salt reductions as high as 70%. As we can educate and duplicate this type of success across the state, we will take huge steps in the protection of our freshwater systems.

All of this experience has led me to the professional and personal opinion that the bill being discussed will be monumental for the State of Wisconsin and everyone who lives and visits this state. It will address the issue of oversalting on the private side head-on and immediately begin to protect the things that we can't see; the negative effects of salt happening to our groundwater and freshwater systems. Clean ground water and clean freshwater are necessary for ALL forms of life, for ALL forms of economic sustainability and development. We CANNOT survive without clean water. I personally and professionally support this bill and all that comes from its passage. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone who has a goal of utilizing snow and ice best management and sensible salting practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.

Matt Wittum
Town of Linn, Highway Superintendent
Wisconsin Salt Wise Partner and Municipal Champion



March 8th, 2023

Dear Chairman Cowles and Committee Members,

As a national expert in freshwater lakes and water quality, I want to express my support for 2023 Senate Bill 52 that addresses limited liability for private applicators who use best practices in road salt application. I believe this bill is an important step to protect our state's freshwater resources, which are a vital part of Wisconsin's identity and of massive economic importance.

Road salt, while effective in deicing roads, has significant and negative environmental impacts on our freshwater resources. In Wisconsin, we use over half a million tons of road each year, leading to the contamination and salinization of our lakes, rivers, and groundwater. The chloride from road salt is toxic to many species of fish and other aquatic life, and it can also lead to increased algal growth which can further reduce water quality. This can in turn lead to decreased recreational activities and property values. Importantly, in some areas increased salt in groundwater has contaminated groundwater wells and left private landowners without drinkable water.

The state of Wisconsin must protect our drinking water and our freshwater resources. Salt reduction is possible while maintaining current levels of safety. Limiting liability for those who use best practices will incentivize private applicators to use less salt and switch to more environmentally friendly practices, which will reduce overall salt use.

Reducing Wisconsin's salt use is a collective effort. We've already seen reductions in many counties and municipalities. In part this is due to liability protection at the municipal level. By granting limited liability to commercial applicators, we are ensuring private businesses have more autonomy on decision making on their properties.

As Wisconsin's salt use we will see a freshening of waters currently being polluted by road salt. Thereby ensuring freshwater resources for future generations.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Wisconsin State Senate to support 2023 Senate Bill 52.

Dr. Hilary Dugan
Assistant Professor
Center for Limnology, Department of Integrative Biology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

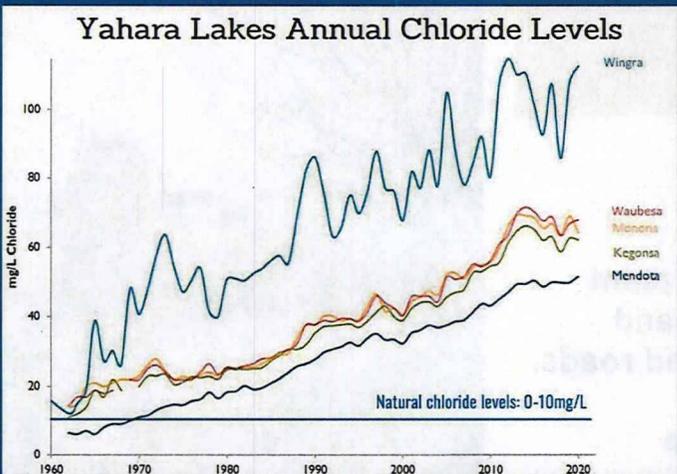
MARCH 15, 2023

SENATE BILL 52

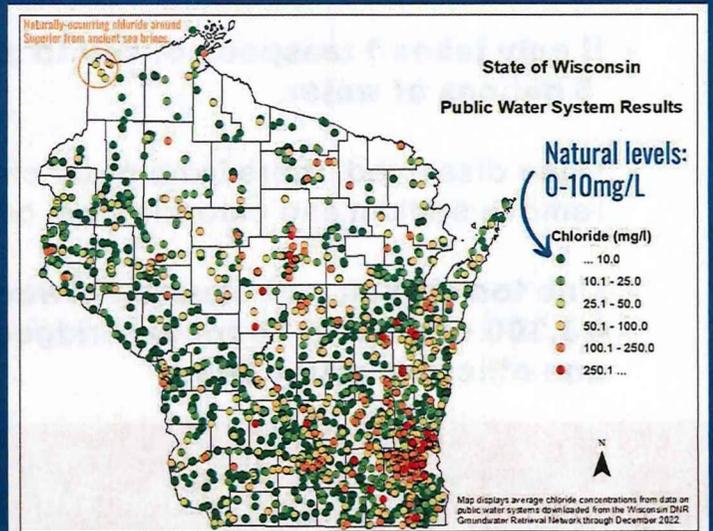
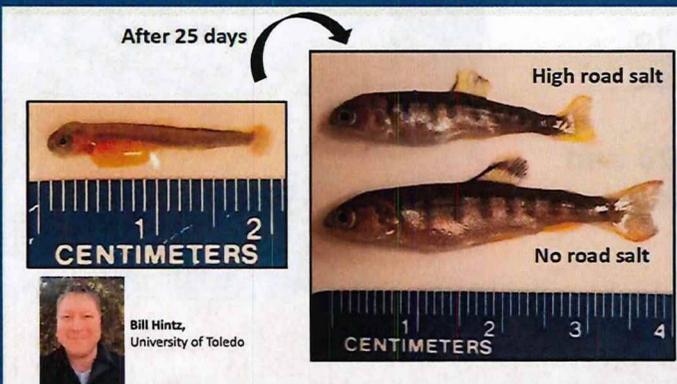
Deicer Applicators Certification Program and Liability Protection Bill

Background

- Overuse of deicing salt (sodium chloride) is widespread in Wisconsin.
- Fear of liability and lack of training drive the overapplication of deicers.
- Sodium and chloride levels are rising in lakes, streams, and drinking water.



Naturally, chloride levels in our surface and groundwater are between **0-10mg/L** throughout most of Wisconsin.





The proposed legislation

- Encourages training on the use of best management practices (BMPs).
- Reduces the fear of lawsuits when using BMPs.
- Protects the health of our freshwater.

Training and the adoption of best practices consistently reduces total salt use by 30-70%.

WI SALT WISE

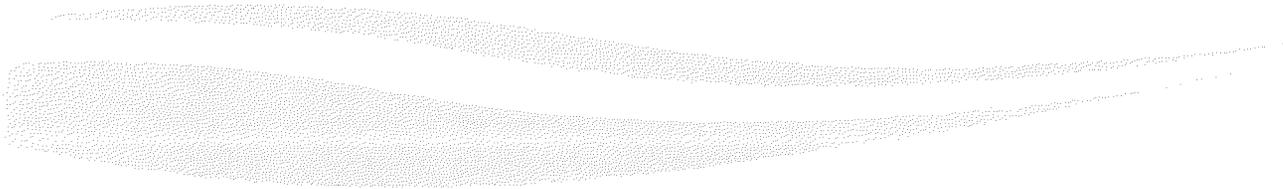


More salty facts

- Salt alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth and weakens the concrete, brick, and stone that make up our homes, bridges and roads.
- **It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water.**
- Once dissolved, there is no practical way to remove sodium and chloride from our water.
- **One ton of rock salt causes between \$800 and \$3,300 of damage to roads, bridges, buildings, and other infrastructure.**



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Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

1610 Moorland Road • Madison, WI 53713-3398 • P: (608) 222-1201 • F: (608) 222-2703

FROM: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

RE: Support for Senate Bill 52 and Assembly Bill 61

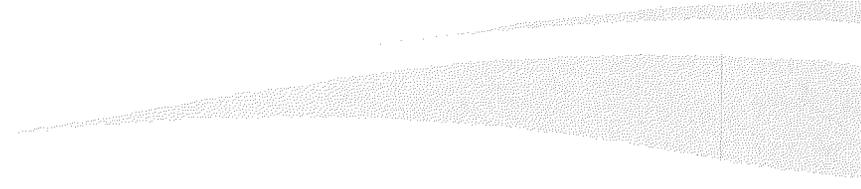
DATE: March 15, 2023

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is a regional wastewater utility that provides wastewater conveyance and treatment services to over 407,000 people in twenty-five communities covering 187 square miles in Southern Wisconsin. The District's mission is to protect public health and the environment for those in our community and downstream environments. Because of the tremendous amount of deicing salt that enters our system when it rains or the snow melts, our mission, and our compliance with our Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit is at risk.

Under our WPDES permit, MMSD is required to meet certain water quality standards in water being discharged from our treatment plant. These water quality standards include standards for chloride, a common component of deicing salt. Deicing salt enters our sewer system during periods of winter melt and rain through inflow and infiltration, which can cause high peaks in chloride influent loading. In addition, such events also increase chloride loading indirectly when the salt enters drinking water wells, which tends to increase the baseline of chloride concentration year-round.

Although there are a few methods of treatment to remove the salt from wastewater, engineering studies have shown these methods are not technically feasible, because of the extremely prohibitive cost and negative environmental externalities. For that reason, proactive efforts to reduce the upstream usage of deicing salt remain the most practical and reliable way to reduce the level of salt entering our sewer system and thereby help us to meet water quality standards in our permit.

Our efforts to reduce sources of deicing salt to our treatment plant have been extensive, including our work to raise awareness and change behavior through education. Significant resources have been committed to this effort, including:

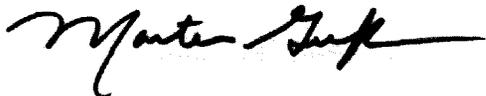
- Founding and staffing the Wisconsin Salt Wise partnership
 - Hiring multiple staff to implement source reduction initiatives and programs
- 

- Supporting and organizing free training for winter maintenance professionals
- Direct incentives to salt applicators for equipment upgrades and efficiency improvements
- Funding innovation and research, such as the use of brine reclaim through grants

Despite these extensive efforts to encourage right-sizing salt use, the outcome is dependent on the actions of those applying deicing salt to our streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and driveways. Over more than ten years, we have heard from hundreds of winter maintenance professionals through trainings, grants, and other programs that concerns about liability are by far the greatest barrier to right-sizing salt use.

With this legislation, you can remove this barrier and thereby have a tremendous impact on water quality throughout the state. MMSD is not alone in facing this issue: at least forty wastewater treatment plants around the state are experiencing similar challenges with meeting water quality standards for chloride, in part due to the use of deicing salt. As you are aware, because all water is connected, an improvement in discharges from wastewater treatment plants benefits all downstream waters, including rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to submit this comment in support of both AB 61 and SB 52.



Martin Griffin, MMSD Director Ecosystem Services



Kathy Lake, MMSD Pollution Prevention Manager

Miller, Evan

From: Kate Houston <kate.who@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:34 AM
To: Sen.Cowles
Subject: SB 52, SB 99, SB 105 + Gov Evers nominee

Dear Chairman Cowles and members of the Senate Cmte on Natural Resources:

Please enter my comments in the Public Record.

I support passage of **SB 52** and **SB 99**, which I hope will help protect our precious groundwater. I'm really tired of trying to find replacement parts for my beloved 30-yr-old station wagon because of the rust damage done by road salt and especially brine, whose dust lingers long after the snow has melted. And although I no longer live in a municipality that has water supply lines or sewer lines, if I did, I'd want those supply lines protected from infiltration of anything other than clean drinking water and would definitely want the sewer lines isolated from drinking water supply lines!

+**SB 52** / AB 61 re: creating deicer applicators certification + funds for it (FAVOR)

+**SB 99** / AB ? re: funding for reducing infiltration, etc of connecting laterals + sewer lines (FAVOR)

I'm mostly neutral on **SB 105**, although I wonder if advertising signs along snowmobile trails might have a negative effect on the pristine beauty of the environment. I'm not a snowmobiler myself (I much prefer silent sports and the deer and turkeys love my snowshoe trails, especially when the snow is deep), but I'd rather not see ad signs when I'm out in the woods.

SB 105 / AB / re: business ad signs along snowmobile trails (I'm neutral on this)

I have no opinion about the following legislative nominees; I do hope the selections are qualified:

- Brown, Ritchie of Black River Falls, as a Recreational User Group Representative on the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board, to serve for the term ending May 1, 2024. (I'm neutral on this)

- Gbolo, Dr. Prosper of Sheboygan Falls, as a Professional Geologist Representative on the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Scientists, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2025. (I'm neutral on this)

Lastly, past conflicts about the DNR members, including one who refused to leave long after his term expired, have not helped protect Wisconsin's beautiful, valuable natural resources. Maybe now this will change. I support approval of this gubernatorial nominee because I think Gov. Evers is entitled to his choices for Administrative, etc positions. The obstructionist legislators who refuse to confirm the governor's nominees do none of us any favors (well, except maybe their donors...).

- Payne, Adam of Plymouth, as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, to serve for the term ending at the pleasure of the Governor. (FAVOR)

Sincerely,

Kate Houston
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