



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Written Testimony: H.86

Thursday, April 17, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on H.86, an act relating to establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources. The Agency is supportive of the bill as written in Draft 4.3, April 16, 2025. This draft contains resources to implement the program, and a path to provide a liability protection incentive. However, it is important to emphasize the resources included in the bill are not part of the Governor's recommended budget and not a priority of the Administration. This consideration is particularly important given the developing nature of the current budget picture and the likelihood of difficult decisions being made on any new spending.

Prior to implementation of the section of statute, and to ensure full public participation and review of the elements of the salt optimization program, the Agency of Natural Resources supports adopting by rule the best management practices, snow and ice management plans, and requirements of the certification program. The Agency will engage experts in the field of snow and ice management, including VTrans and organizations responsible for the implementation of similar programs, such as those in New Hampshire, Minnesota, Ontario, and Wisconsin, to develop the certification requirements as well as the best management practices to be adopted by rule. The Agency will update the rule every five years to ensure the best management practices incorporate the latest science and technology available in the field of snow and ice management.

Thank you,
Charles Martin, Deputy Secretary