



To: Senator Nadir Hashim; Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary and all members of the Committee on Judiciary.

From: Martin Tirado, CAE; Executive Director/CEO, Snow & Ice Management Association

April 2, 2025

The [Snow & Ice Management Association](#) (SIMA) has reviewed Vermont Bill S.29, an act relating to establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources. As the trade association representing over 1,200 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 that 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.

S.29 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.***

Vermont commercial salt applicators should consider the positive aspects of this proposed regulation. Given the established precedent, with similar and proven [regulations that were established in New Hampshire in 2013](#), which offer both virtual education on best practices along with an annual Salt Symposium education program where applicators can renew their training certification. Some specific benefits of this legislation include:

This is a voluntary certification program. Our interpretation is that S.29 is not mandatory, which gives commercial applicators the option to participate.

Liability protection for commercial applicators. The limited 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 Vermont'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.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important legislation.

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.

Contact:

Martin Tirado, CAE

CEO - SIMA

martin@sima.org

P: 414-375-1940