

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: HB 216 Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 216 Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require the Department of the Environment to establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. This measure imposes a de-facto tax on landlords in order to establish a salt applicator program that is not necessary or needed. Many if not most landlords already have a protocol for when salt needs to be laid down and it is unnecessary for an entirely new agency to be constructed to instruct them. Tenants also have the capacity to request salt if they require it and it should be up to them whether or not that is needed. Because this is an additional cost that landlords will pay for the construction of this agency and those costs will be passed on to tenants. It is unfair to impose a cost on tenants to fund an unnecessary program often has only theoretical benefits but imposes very real yearly costs.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the give this measure a unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee