



Maryland Arborist Association, Inc.

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director

HB 0216 – Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment

Committee: Environment and Transportation
MAA Position: **OPPOSED**

Date: February 6, 2023

The Maryland Arborist Association, Inc. (MAA) works to promote education in the field of arboriculture, support the success of arborists and promote the importance of proper tree care. Many of our member tree care companies perform snow removal work during the winter months as an alternative source of revenue. This work often includes winter maintenance of roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks utilizing applications of salt or salt alternatives.

The passage of HB 0216 would be detrimental to our members who perform this work due to the additional costs associated with the proposed certification program. Increased costs for our members include lost revenue from time spent on training and certification, and any costs associated with the required recordkeeping and reporting.

As we understand, in 2022 the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) was developing a voluntary winter salt application training program, including the development of curriculum and virtual training options. Using these resources, in conjunction with the Statewide Salt Management Plan, provide adequate measures already in place that ensure best management practices are being used to protect the environment from the negative impacts of road salt.

Due to its significant impact on Maryland small businesses, MAA requests your unfavorable report on HB 0216.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director