



Mayor and Council of Rockville

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HB 1055: ENVIRONMENT – HIGHWAYS – SALT APPLICATION

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 1055 Environment – Highways – Salt Application. The Mayor and Council support HB 1055 with amendments. The City of Rockville supports State-wide leadership to protect water quality and prudently manage the amount of salt applied on roadways during winter weather events. The City requests the legislation and implementation take into consideration the following items:

- 1) The legislation should focus on salt applications in the public right-of-way to ensure accurate reporting and consistent information. The City requests the requirements outlined in Section (9-2302(B) (2) be removed so that jurisdictions will not be required to report salt applied at schools, institutions of higher education, public parks and by private contractors. Highway maintenance agencies often do not oversee salt applications on other properties and are not able to report.
- 2) The administering agency clearly defines metrics and methodology for calculating lane mile and the amount of salt applied per lane mile to ensure a consistent methodology is used across jurisdictions so that the inevitable comparisons are fair.
- 3) The administering agency should also collect location-based weather data to provide context for the amount of salt used during a given weather event. Since weather conditions can vary widely across the state during winter weather events, there should be a standard method for calculating depth and type of precipitation so the data can be normalized by weather events across jurisdictions.

We urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report with the requested amendments. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as it deliberates the merits of this legislation.