

## Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-240  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE TO MITIGATE  
**Title:** SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS.  
**Vote Date:** 3/28/2022  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/7/2022  
**File No.:**

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### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
Rep. Marie P. Horn, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. Lucy Dathan, 14 Dist.  
Rep. Jamie S. Foster, 57<sup>th</sup> Dist.

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To provide training, certification and protection from liability for roadside applicators of sodium chloride use best practices when applying sodium chloride which, in turn, will reduce the environmental impact of such applications.

### **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBSTITUTE:**

Created a self-certification process, rather than one administered by DEEP; made some technical names changes and changed the last section from requiring testing by such companies to requiring the provision of information to consumers regarding sodium and chloride.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

#### **Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, DEEP**

The Commissioner supports the intent of the bill. Salt impacts to groundwater utilized for drinking purposes present a growing problem and overapplication of road salt damages vegetation, and aquatic life. However, DEEP does not have the resources to implement the certification program as currently envisioned in the bill.

#### **Manisha Juthani, MD, Commissioner, DPH**

DPH supports the intent of SB 240. Section 4 of the bill requires each of CT's local health districts to establish, January 1, 2023 an electronic reporting system for owners of sodium chloride impacted homes/wells to register damage. Such reports would be submitted on an annual basis to OPM and OPM may identify available resources, criteria and procedures to assist the remediation, mitigation or repair of the homes/wells. This mandate will require

LHD's to identify resources to create and manage the electronic reporting systems. DPH welcomes the opportunity to work with the committee to help address the challenges this section would create.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters**

We support this legislation to reduce salt contamination of state waters because of the severity of the salt problem because of road salt.

**Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut**

We support SB 240 because high chloride concentrations are a real threat to private wells and public drinking water supplies. However, it is also extremely important to understand that this is an equally significant threat to aquatic organisms.

**Elizabeth Craig, NRWA Board of Directors**

NRWA supports SB 240 because an important transportation corridor (US Rte. 7) follows the little Norwalk River. There is extensive commercial development adjacent to Rte. 7. Large parking lots and other impervious surfaces, both public and privately owned may be heavily treated with de-icing that drain directly into the River. We need to provide training, certification and protection from liability for applicators of sodium chloride who use best practices when applying sodium chloride.

**Lucy Dathan, State Representative, 142<sup>nd</sup> District**

This bill, SB 240, would provide training, certification and protection from liability for applicators of sodium chloride who use best practices for de-icing. We must do everything we can to combat the excessive use of salt on our roads, to protect our water supply.

**Donna M. Shea, Executive Program Director, CT Training & Technical Assistance Center (T2), UCONN and Michael Dietz, PhD, Director, CT Institute of Water Resources, UConn CLEAR.**

UConn supports the proposed legislation, but we feel Municipalities should be included to participate in the Green Snow Pro certification program and a one time funding will be required for the UCONN T2 Center to prepare and implement the program.

**Nathan Frohling, Director of External Affairs, The Nature Conservancy**

We support SB 240 which requires DEEP and DOT to work with UConn to conduct a training program for state, municipal and private roadside applicators that relies on the program developed in 2017 in order to expand training and address the specific needs of private applicators.

**Betsy Gara, Executive Director, COST**

COST supports SB 240 which ensures that "Green Snow Pro" Best Management Practices training is available to guide road salt applicators in reducing the amount of road salt applied to roads and parking lots.

**Scott Smith, Friends of Animals**

The true value in SB 240 is reducing the use of road salt from state, municipal and commercial deicing operators, because studies show that up to 10 times the appropriate amount of salt is commonly applied on parking lots and walkways.

**Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist, Regional Water Authority**

The RWA supports the creation of a training program for road salt applicators because it will provide valuable information about how to minimize overuse of road salt and avoid pollution. It's a step toward protecting Connecticut's water supplies and aquatic ecosystems from possible salt and chloride contamination.

**Kelsey Wentling, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy**

We are supportive of this bill to develop a training and certificate program for road salt applicators, we suggest that the bill be amended to include language to address the adverse impact not just on private wells and groundwater, but the impacts on surface waters as well.

**Patricia Young, Program Director, Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed and the Salmon River Watershed Partnership**

We support SB 240, with the recommendation that impacts to groundwater and surface waters also be included.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Paul Hurlbut, President of Professional Water Systems**

We oppose Section 5 of SB 240 "Requiring any persons who install water treatment systems, including, but not limited to automatic water softeners or tanks, shall test a customer's water for presences of sodium chloride "prior" to making any recommendations to such a customers or potential customer regarding the installation of an automatic water softener or tank. Such testing shall be performed by an environmental laboratory registered to the state". This would require companies to spend \$45.00 for each client before offering them option on how to treat their water. It's just increasing the cost of doing business. We are the ones bringing the "de-icing problem to everyone's attention. The liquid magnesium chloride and calcium chloride has been the deicing product of choice in the last 10 years.

**Frank Lineberry, Secretary, Connecticut Water Well Association, Owner Hydro-Pure Water Treatment and Carri Lineberry Owner Hydro-Pure Water Treatment**

We request that Section 5 of proposed SB 240 be removed. We invite the opportunity to help achieve a clearer understanding of what licensed water treatment professionals do, how we operate, how we perform our work, and the protocols that our standard in our industry. Since the inception of the Connecticut Water Well Association, it has been proactive and involved with State authorities and have helped implement numerous regulations and licensing criteria that protected the public, Connecticut's groundwater supply, and the industry.

**Jeremiah Weid, Owner J. H. Barlow Pump and Supply Co. and Vice President of the Connecticut Water Well Association and member of the Water Quality Association**

We request that Section 5 of proposed SB240. Our Association was part of original sodium chloride task force year ago, put together by the State Health department. We want to be

part of the solution and we urge that we look at real issue at hand. Our industry is always working on ways to make water systems more efficient as well as providing our customers with all the information on testing available in order to maintain clean and safe water.

**Reported by: Judith Ganswindt**

**Date: April 4, 2022**