



January 18, 2024

Re: Hospitality Minnesota support for certified salt applicator program

Dear Legislator,

Hospitality Minnesota represents hospitality businesses, including restaurants and food service, hotels and lodging, resorts and campgrounds and more. We advocate for policies that promote and support the hospitality and tourism industries.

Hospitality Minnesota supports the establishment of a certified salt applicator program. We respectfully request your support on this bill to help operators stay apprised of best practices for keeping their employees and guests safe while introducing more accountability to the industry.

Keeping employees and guests safe during the icy winter months is of the utmost importance to our members. Without either, our members would not have businesses. Providing incentivized opportunities to expand our members' training knowledge on best practices to de-ice will lead to safer working environments, and in turn, reduce the number of injuries that occur over winter in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Labor recently released their annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illness which studied workplace injuries in 2022. According to their results, the third most common injury events were falls, trips and slips (17% of all injury events). They also found that the second most common sources of injury and illness were floors, walkways and ground surfaces (11% of all sources of injury). Slipping on ice in Minnesota is a challenge that our members face every winter, and this bill goes a long way toward addressing this challenge.

Finally, understanding the best practices for de-icing will reduce the amount of salt that our members use throughout the course of the winter. Not only will this be a cost-saving measure for businesses, it will also reduce the amount of salt that pollutes our lakes and waterways.

We are thankful for your consideration of this request and hope you will support the bill. Please contact Hospitality Minnesota with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Whitcomb", written in a cursive style.

Angie Whitcomb
President & CEO