



93RD DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GRAHAM FILLER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-1778
FAX: (517) 373-5780
GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov
www.RepFiller.com

7 April 2023

Attn: Director Daniel Eichinger
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
525 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Director Eichinger,

I am writing today to express my frustration and apprehension in response to a proposed EGLE rule change, dealing with the application of mineral brine on unpaved roads under winter and non-winter conditions. It is my understanding that this rule-making process (or perhaps, rule-reinterpretation) lacked transparency and was made with little or no stakeholder input, vetting, or discussion. Furthermore, the underlying reason for the change was not based on sound science.

Brine spraying is used on dirt and gravel roads to strengthen the roadway, keep dust down, and help allow plow trucks to successfully remove snow during winter months without damage to the integrity of the road surface. This proposed EGLE rule change would have the opposite effect, making Michigan's unpaved roads unsafe, potentially structurally unsound, and harmful to individuals with respiratory-related health issues. In short, this change will make Michigan a worse state to live and travel in for rural citizens and anyone who uses dirt and gravel roads.

In speaking with many of my constituents, the perception is that changing or reinterpreting this rule in the proposed way, and without robust discussion and stakeholder input, is essentially a declaration of war on farmers who rely on these rural roadways every day with large equipment. There is a real fear that the consequences from this change will be devastating. As someone born and raised in rural Michigan, I care deeply about our environment and abundant natural resources and strive to protect them, however, the potential damage done by the change greatly outweighs any environmental benefit.

I, and many of my colleagues, would strongly encourage EGLE to go back to the drawing board on this rule change. Hopefully, with the input of stakeholders and Michigan citizens, a better solution can be found. Please do not hesitate to contact my office, at (517)373-1778, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Graham Filler
Michigan State Representative
District 93

Jay DeBoyer
Michigan State Representative
District 63

Mike Hoadley
Michigan State Representative
District 99

Jamie Thompson
Michigan State Representative
District 28

Jaime Greene
Michigan State Representative
District 65

Tom Kunse
Michigan State Representative
District 100

Dale W. Zorn
Michigan State Representative
District 34

David W. Martin
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District 68

Joseph D. Fox
Michigan State Representative
District 101

Steve Carra
Michigan State Representative
District 36

Brian BeGole
Michigan State Representative
District 71

Curt S. VanderWall
Michigan State Representative
District 102

Rachelle Smit
Michigan State Representative
District 43

Gina Johnsen
Michigan State Representative
District 78

John R. Roth
Michigan State Representative
District 104

Sarah Lightner
Michigan State Representative
District 45

Angela Rigas
Michigan State Representative
District 79

Ken Borton
Michigan State Representative
District 105

Ann Bollin
Michigan State Representative
District 49

Luke Meernan
Michigan State Representative
District 89

Cam Cavitt
Michigan State Representative
District 106

Robert J. Bezotte
Michigan State Representative
District 50

Timothy Beson
Michigan State Representative
District 96

Dave Prestin
Michigan State Representative
District 108

Mike Harris
Michigan State Representative
District 52

Matthew Bierlein
Michigan State Representative
District 97

Gregory Markkanen
Michigan State Representative
District 110

Donni Steele
Michigan State Representative
District 54

Gregory Alexander
Michigan State Representative
District 98