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Committees:
Finance - *Ranking Minority Member*
Agriculture
Energy & Natural Resources
Finance - General Government
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Government Oversight and Reform
Judiciary

Michael J. Skindell
State Senator
23rd District

Before The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Bill 165 – Processing Brine for road deicing
Joint Sponsor Testimony by Senator Michael J. Skindell
September 19, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member O'Brien,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present sponsor testimony, along with Sen. Dolan on Senate Bill 165. Our bill allows for brine, used in vertical oil and gas well production, to be sold for deicing and other applications.

Brine produced from “vertical” Class II injection wells, unlike brine produced from “horizontal” fracking wells whose toxic composition is not required to be disclosed, is a natural substance containing salt, and low levels of oil and natural gas. The “vertical” well brine can be recycled as per ODNR regulations and can be used for snow and ice control by local governments at a potential savings.

The bill contains three requirements that serve as safety devices ensuring for a non-toxic recycling and effective use of the natural brine.

1. Documentation that the Department of Transportation has approved the recycled product for effective deicing and snow control.
2. Documentation that the recycled product, with or without a corrosion inhibitor, is listed on the most recent pacific northwest snow fighters qualified products list.
3. Documentation from a private certification entity approved by the Department of Transportation.

The passage of this legislation will provide a more ecofriendly solution by requiring the recycling process to filter out any natural toxins that may occur in the raw brine. The processing of the brine into the finished product known as Aqua Salina contains a seven to ten percent mixture of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride and potassium chloride. This is a safer compound than even rock salt and approved for use in thirty four states.

Chairman Balderson, Thank you once more for allowing Senator Dolan and myself to present Senate Bill 165 to the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. We would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.