



COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

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Talking Points- HB 4562

Summary:

House Bill 4562, introduced by Rep. Goeff Hansen (R-Newaygo), would amend Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to allow a county road commission or its contractor to apply oil field brine to roads for dust control within its jurisdiction for an annual groundwater discharge permit fee of \$100, rather than the current single application permit fee of \$1500.

CRAM position:

CRAM supports this legislation.

Talking Points:

- Road commissions which spread brine on dirt roads for dust control would save at least \$1,400 annually. The current single application permit fee is \$1,500.
- Brine is a natural bi-product of oil and gas production. These naturally occurring waters, usually containing a high concentration of calcium and sodium salts, are found during deep rock penetration by the drill.
- Brine produced from oil and gas wells is used as an effective dust suppressant and road stabilizer on unpaved secondary road systems. Applications are typically applied no more than three times per year.
- The brine is tested by the oil drillers for retail use. If the product is approved for retail sales why should retail use need another permit and fee?
- Under testimony last session, DEQ admitted it has never followed-up on any permit issued for this use. Why should this program continue?