

Karl Van Neste, Vice President, Muddy Branch Alliance
52 Redding Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-251-5896
kfvanneste@gmail.com
[HB0371](#)

Thank you for giving me time to speak.

My name is Karl Van Neste, and I am the Vice President of the Muddy Branch Alliance from Montgomery Co, Md. I am looking for a favorable report on this bill.

Since 2019 the Muddy Branch Alliance has been monitoring the Muddy Branch and Watts Branch streams. Our streams have had toxic levels of salt in them for over one third of the year.

Proper training of private salt distributors is a key to reducing the amount of salt that we use.

Salt is thrown everywhere because it is literally “dirt” cheap; it costs \$58/ton.

It is somewhat effective on ice, so following a major snow event, we need to continue to use it on our major roads, emergency routes, and dangerous intersections.

Unfortunately, the true cost of salt is much greater:

1. It gets into our water supply and is harmful to people with high blood pressure and kidney disease
2. it kills our vegetation and stream animal life;
3. it corrodes our bridges - we just had a bridge collapse in Pittsburg;
4. it corrodes our pipes - we have had numerous pipes burst in Maryland and Flint Michigan’s corroded pipes are notorious; and
5. it corrodes our roads and cars.

Really, the best place for salt is on my steak.

We need to use salt smartly to limit these harmful side effects; this bill will help.

Management 101 tells us that we need to track salt usage. The SHA doesn’t know how much salt is used. This bill helps with this.

Management 101 tells us that we need to effectively train people. The SHA doesn’t know who or when people have been trained and it doesn’t have Spanish training materials. This bill helps with this.

Management 101 tells us that we should limit salt use near watersheds that are already impaired. The SHA doesn’t share impaired stream locations with contractors. This bill will help with this

It is obvious that the SHA training has not been impactful. We see the remnants of salt use everywhere after a storm. You shouldn't see salt after a storm because salt should have melted the ice and then runoff into the watershed. So, the salt that you see is excess salt. This bill will help with make training impactful.

Unmanaged salt is dangerous. We can't throw it everywhere. We must manage it; this bill will help.

Please notice the pictures associated with my testimony.

Picture 1 – Poorly Managed Salt - A Salt Related Fish Kill at Lake Varuna on March 6, 2021



Picture 2 - Tracking Salt Use

"Sample", Md Salt Use

Date/Time	Action	Reason	Single Lane Miles Covered	Pounds of Salt Used	Pounds / Single Lane Mile
1/8/2022 14:00	Salt	Ice Storm	280	50000	178.57
1/3/2022 22:00	Salt	Clearing Roads	280	45000	160.71
1/3/2022 8:00	Brine	Impending snow storm	325	15000	46.15

Picture 3 – Poorly Managed Salt - Uncovered Salt Dumps, at 9513 Key West Avenue, Rockville, MD January 18, 2022

