



The Senate of Maryland  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 25, 2024

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 1055.

The Izaak Walton League of America supports HB 1055 to provide transparency of State Agencies, Counties and Municipalities throughout Maryland to maintain and report records of road salt application for the previous winter season.

As one of the oldest conservation organizations in the United States, the Izaak Walton League of America (the League) has worked to protect the nation's soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife for over 100 years. Since 2018, the League's Salt Watch program has provided access for community scientists to monitor local waterways nation-wide for road salt pollution, encouraged volunteers to advocate for smarter road salting practices, and provided training and resources to road salt applicators, property managers, and individual residents.

The League is in favor of HB 1055. Recording and reporting the amount of road salt applied annually by each state agency, county, and municipality is a vital starting point for understanding how much road salt is being applied across the state and where improvements can be made to reduce road salt pollution without sacrificing safety. Keeping and reporting records of road salt usage is a specific, measurable, and attainable action that will begin to provide transparency on a legacy pollutant that is creating toxic aquatic conditions and threatening human health.

We urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Abby Hileman  
Salt Watch Coordinator  
Izaak Walton League of America