



Maryland General Assembly  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
223 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee Members:

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

The Izaak Walton League of America supports the intent of 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 supports the intent of the bill because transparency of the amount of salt applied per lane mile is vital for understanding how much road salt is being applied and where improvements can be made to reduce road salt pollution without sacrificing safety.

To strengthen HB 1055, language within the bill should be adjusted to solely apply to State Agencies, Counties, and Municipalities, and any public properties within their purview for winter maintenance. It should also be made clearer that information regarding road salt amounts used by private contractors only applies to those private contractors hired by State Agencies, Counties, and Municipalities to apply road salt to a public facility. This ensures HB 1055 is specific, measurable, and attainable.

Respectfully,

Abby Hileman  
Salt Watch Coordinator  
Izaak Walton League of America