



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

March 3, 2025

Environment and Transportation Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 1360.

The Izaak Walton League of America supports HB 1360 to provide regulation around road salt piles being stored outdoors.

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 this bill because many road salt applicators who aren't covered by MS4 permit requirements often store road salt uncovered outdoors, leading to needless salt pollution runoff into our environment, local waterways, and our drinking water. A [paper by the University of Rhode Island](#) estimates that an uncovered salt pile loses around 20% of its salt each year. One teaspoon of salt has the potential to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water, and a 50-pound bag of salt can permanently pollute as many as 10,000 gallons of water. The words "permanently pollute" are used here as there is no feasible way to remove salt once it enters the environment. Salt is incredibly damaging to local habitats, wildlife, pets, waterways, drinking water, and corrosive to vehicles and infrastructure, which can result in incredibly costly long-term impacts from damages. HB 1360 is a no nonsense solution to reduce such unnecessary pollution.

The Izaak Walton League supports HB 1360 and urges you to be in favor of this bill and others that reduce road salt pollution across the great state of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Abby Hileman
Salt Watch Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America