



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1360 Environment – Road Salt – Outdoor Storage

Date: March 5, 2025
To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**
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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1360, which requires that road salt stored outdoors be properly contained and covered to prevent contact with stormwater runoff and subsequent excess salt pollution in waterways.

The application of road salt for anti-icing and de-icing during winter weather keeps Maryland residents on roads and sidewalks safe, and to be prepared for winter storms, salt must be kept on hand. However, sodium chloride and other salts negatively impact freshwater tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Benthic organisms such as insect larvae and crayfish and fish species like brook trout and perch are sensitive to elevated salt levels: too much salt can interrupt breeding habits and reduce populations. Salty runoff can also percolate into groundwater, impacting drinking water supply. Salt in storage must be adequately contained to ensure that this type of pollution only occurs when necessary for public safety.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1360.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.