

Written testimony in favor of HB 1360

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High chloride and high conductivity levels from road salt is an issue in our local waterways, which is a problem for both wildlife and infrastructure.

Road salt is everywhere during winter months. It keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but it can also pose a threat to fish and wildlife as well as human health.

Fish and bugs that live in freshwater streams can't survive in extra salty water. And many of us (more than 117 million Americans) depend on local streams for drinking water. Water treatment plants are not equipped to filter out the extra salt, so it can end up in your tap water and even corrode your pipes.

At the following two links, you can map a location and see what the latest Salt Watch readings are and also overall conductivity in many local streams. Sucker Branch in the Patapsco Watershed (Old Ellicott City, near Patapsco Female Institute) shows the fluctuations very dramatically, but almost any tributary that you pick will illustrate this.

Sources: Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative raw data here:
<https://www.chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org/services/chesapeake-data-explorer/>

Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Salt Watch

Check out the Chloride data here: <https://www.cleanwaterhub.org/>

Providing proper outdoor coverage/storage for salt piles seems like an easy, relatively inexpensive way to make a real difference in the amount of salt that makes its way into our streams through runoff. I see how salt affects our streams and I encourage you to consider voting in favor of this bill to protect wildlife and infrastructure.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1360