



MISSISSIPPI
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ORGANIZATION

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Good Afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Abby Moore and I'm an Outreach Specialist at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

We know that a single teaspoon of salt contains enough chloride to permanently pollute five gallons of fresh water. Currently, in the Twin Cities Metro Area, we're applying around 365,000 tons of salt on our roads and paved surfaces every year. An estimated 78 percent of that salt will eventually find its way to our groundwater supplies or to our surface waters, where it is toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

Unfortunately, much of our road salt is wasted — used in greater quantities than is needed, or used in the wrong conditions. We call this over-salting, and contrary to popular belief, more salt does not equal safer roads or sidewalks. It only means an excess of harmful chemicals impacting our water quality for generations to come.

The antidote to over-salting is smart salting. At the MWMO, we work with our state and local partners to sponsor smart salting training for public and private snow removal professionals. This training not only reduces the problem of over-salting; it also helps our salt applicators to become more effective, leading to improved public safety outcomes as well as cost savings.

The availability and accessibility of this smart salting training is critical to reducing the harmful impacts of chloride while maintaining safety on our roadways. We ask for your support in providing more training opportunities to our snow plow drivers and snow removal contractors.

We also need your support in relieving the burden of liability from those who are certified smart salters using best practices. We know from experience working with public works staff, snow removal contractors, and business owners that they know what to do and want to help. But they worry about lawsuits from patrons who demand they blanket even dry pavement with salt granules, believing falsely that this increases safety.

If current trends continue, researchers have projected that some waterbodies in the metro area may no longer be able to support aquatic life by 2050. You can help reverse these trends today by supporting SF 2768/HF 2908. Thank you for your time.