Dear Representative/Senator **[your rep’s name],**

Since the 1940’s, we have been dumping road salt on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots, etc. every winter to melt ice and create safer traveling conditions. Road salt is effective when used correctly and sparingly, but we have fallen into a pattern of over-applying and misusing road salt which has detrimental effects on our wildlife, human health, and the environment. I am asking that you work towards salt reduction inWisconsin.

Road salt inevitably ends up entering our lakes, streams, and rivers through runoff and storm drains. Once road salt enters bodies of water, it is extremely difficult and expensive to remove. Road salt threatens our water quality in multiple ways by contaminating drinking water, corroding pipes, and leaching metals into our water. High levels of chloride are a danger to human health, especially to residents with pre-existing conditions such as high-blood pressure. Chloride is toxic to aquatic life and can degrade vegetation and soil. It cannot be naturally broken down, so it permanently stays in the environment. In addition to the environmental and health consequences, our salt use currently costs the US $16-19 billion dollars in damages to infrastructure like roads and bridges.

Wisconsin municipalities have been making an effort to reduce road salt, but we still have more work to do. Much of the success in our state so far is due to salt applicators and property managers taking Smart Salting Workshops—trainings for winter maintenance professionals who remove snow, apply road salt, or maintain snow removal equipment—offered by Wisconsin Salt Wise. Applicators and property managers who go through the program significantly reduce their salt use because they learn how they can save money, maintain safety, and protect water resources. It’s a voluntary program, but it works because it provides common sense, cost-effective solutions that also protect freshwater. I’m urging you to support Wisconsin Salt Wise and consider how you can help them take their efforts statewide.

Maintaining the safety of transportation conditions for our residents is a requirement, but our current methods are deteriorating our environment and costing taxpayers. By supporting smart salting training and regulating deicer labeling, you will be protecting water quality from the harms of road salt for generations to come.

Sincerely,

**[Signature]**

**[Your name ]**