

2024 RES-284

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27-31, 2025, AS WINTER SALT WEEK

WHEREAS, all the salt applied to Wisconsin roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks eventually ends up in our freshwater, polluting lakes, streams, and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, chloride contamination is increasing statewide, with measurable impacts on our drinking water; and

WHEREAS, even a small amount—just one teaspoon—can pollute five gallons of water to a level that is toxic for aquatic life, and removing salt from water is costly and challenging; and

WHEREAS, reducing the overuse of deicing salt not only protects our freshwater resources, but also minimizes damage to infrastructure and property and reduces harm to aquatic plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, affordable alternatives to traditional deicing salt, such as brine and sand, are effective options to reduce environmental harm while maintaining public safety; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness among residents, businesses, and local governments about the responsible use of deicing salt is essential to balancing public safety with environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Winter Salt Week serves as an opportunity to educate our communities on smart salting practices, including effective application methods and environmental considerations; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Wisconsin can make meaningful contributions to salt pollution reduction by learning about smart salting practices, engaging in safe winter driving, and hiring trained service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Salt Wise organization is committed to promoting winter maintenance strategies that ensure public safety while protecting the health of our freshwater resources for present and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes January 27-31, 2025, as Winter Salt Week, and urges all residents, businesses, and county departments to take part in activities and initiatives that promote the responsible use of deicing salt and encourage the adoption of winter maintenance strategies to maintain safety while reducing environmental harm.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk