

Support of HB1810

The increase in salt in New Hampshire waterways is an ongoing threat to the natural abundance and quality of our lakes, ponds streams and aquifers. This is brought about by the application of salt to keep roads, parking lots and walkways passable in the winter. Once in the environment the salt will eventually find its way into our waterways. The only practical way to mitigate this problem is to find a way minimize the use of salt while maintaining safe conditions safe for winter travel.

In the last several years there has been an awakening to this problem and potential strategies have been proposed to either use salt more effectively to minimize its use or find alternatives to its use. Some of these solutions will require new equipment or implementation of new practices both of which will require some additional source of funds.

HB1810 would impose a low single digit tax on salt used by municipalities and businesses to be put in a fund. Although this would place a small additional burden on taxpayers, this dedicated fund would enable resources for municipalities to address this problem before it is too late. I therefor support this measure.