



January 13, 2026

Chair David Milz
New Hampshire House Public Works and Highways
Granite Place, Room 228
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1607, AN ACT relative to the use and storage of road salt

Dear Chair Milz and Members of the House Public Works and Highways Committee,

On behalf of NH LAKES, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1607, relative to the use and storage of road salt.

NH LAKES represents approximately 150 local lake associations, community groups, and thousands of individuals across New Hampshire. We are a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and preserving the health of New Hampshire's lakes. Clean and healthy lakes are vital to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, tourism, wildlife habitat, and the overall quality of life and economy of our state.

What This Bill Does

HB 1607 establishes clear protections to prevent groundwater and surface water contamination from the improper storage and management of snow and ice control chemicals, including sodium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, and treated abrasives. The bill prohibits unsafe storage practices that place water resources at risk and directs the Department of Environmental Services to adopt regulations governing the storage of these materials, including where and how they are stored. Importantly, the bill allows for additional safeguards in areas where groundwater or surface waters are already impacted by de-icing chemicals.

Why This Bill Matters

Road salt contamination is a growing and persistent threat to New Hampshire's lakes, rivers, and drinking water supplies. Improperly stored salt and de-icing chemicals are easily mobilized by rainfall and snowmelt, allowing chlorides to enter nearby waters. Once introduced, chloride does not break down or dissipate; it accumulates over time, steadily degrading water quality.

Elevated chloride levels are toxic to aquatic plants, fish, and invertebrates, disrupting freshwater ecosystems and impairing the natural biological processes that help maintain lake health. Salt contamination also contributes to conditions that may favor toxic cyanobacteria blooms in our lakes and rivers, which pose risks to public health, recreation, and local economies.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has documented significant increases in salt contamination in surface waters, particularly in developed areas, and a dramatic rise in chloride-contaminated drinking water wells over recent decades. Because chloride cannot be effectively removed through natural processes or conventional stormwater treatment, preventing contamination at the source is essential.

HB 1607 addresses this challenge directly by ensuring that snow and ice control chemicals are stored and managed responsibly. Safe storage, combined with efficient salt use and best winter maintenance practices, represents one of the most cost-effective and environmentally sound strategies for protecting New Hampshire's waters.

For these reasons, NH LAKES respectfully urges the House Public Works and Highways Committee to recommend HB 1607 as Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact me at alamoreaux@nhlakes.org or 603.226.0299.

Respectfully,



Andrea LaMoreaux
NH LAKES President & Policy Advocate

cc: Representative Rosemarie Rung, prime sponsor