2021 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 9

January 29, 2021 – Introduced by Representatives HESSELBEIN, ORTIZ-VELEZ, SINICKI, NEUBAUER, CABRERA, STUBBS and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring January 2021 as Wisconsin Salt Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, over 525,000 tons of salt (sodium chloride) are applied to Wisconsin

3 roadways each winter; and

4 Whereas, all of the chlorides applied to roads and fields and used in water

5 softeners *end up in our fresh water*; and

6 Whereas, forty-seven rivers and lakes in Wisconsin have been identified as

7 impaired due to high chloride concentrations; and

8 Whereas, the observed high concentrations of road salt is causing acute and

9 chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms; and

10 Whereas, in our state capital, salt pollution is impacting both upper and lower

11 aquifers; and

12 Whereas, well water data illustrate drinking water in rural areas across the

13 state is being salted; and

1   Whereas, forty-five wastewater treatment plants in hard water regions across

2 the state have variances to discharge above the legal limit for chloride because they

3 cannot afford to remove de-icing and water softener salt from wastewater; and

4   Whereas, education, equipment calibration, and incorporation of best

5 management practices has enabled counties and municipalities across the state to

6 reduce winter salt use by 30-70 percent without impacting public safety; and

7   Whereas, to slow the salting of our freshwater, we need increased awareness

8 to create new social norms and change behaviors; and

9   Whereas, the good health and well-being of the residents of the state of

10 Wisconsin are enhanced by keeping our freshwater resources salt free; now,

11 therefore, be it

12   ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the Wisconsin Legislature proclaims

13 January 2021 to be Wisconsin Salt Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to

14 increase awareness of, education for, and services for proper salt use in Wisconsin.

15   **(END)**