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

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

Whereas, over 525,000 tons of salt (sodium chloride) are applied to Wisconsin roadways each winter; and

Whereas, all of the chlorides applied to roads and fields and used in water softeners end up in our fresh water; and

Whereas, forty-seven rivers and lakes in Wisconsin have been identified as impaired due to high chloride concentrations; and

Whereas, the observed high concentrations of road salt is causing acute and chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms; and

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

Whereas, well water data illustrate drinking water in rural areas across the state is being salted; and
Whereas, forty-five wastewater treatment plants in hard water regions across the state have variances to discharge above the legal limit for chloride because they cannot afford to remove de-icing and water softener salt from wastewater; and

Whereas, education, equipment calibration, and incorporation of best management practices has enabled counties and municipalities across the state to reduce winter salt use by 30–70 percent without impacting public safety; and

Whereas, to slow the salting of our freshwater, we need increased awareness to create new social norms and change behaviors; and

Whereas, the good health and well-being of the residents of the state of Wisconsin are enhanced by keeping our freshwater resources salt free; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That the Wisconsin Legislature proclaims January 2021 to be Wisconsin Salt Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to increase awareness of, education for, and services for proper salt use in Wisconsin.

(END)