



## **Riverkeeper's 2020 Legislative Memorandum**

### **Support - A.8767/S.6824 (Jones/Little)- Support**

Riverkeeper strongly supports A.8767/S.6824, which would create a road salt task force, and start a pilot program to explore practices that can reduce salt contamination while maintaining winter road safety. Road salt application is critical to public safety in the winter months in the Adirondacks and across New York. However, the application of salt has led to negative ecological effects on water quality and ecology.

The Hudson Valley's Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies has conducted extensive research on the impacts of road salt application on water quality across New York State and determined that new technology and management practices are a critical component of addressing this growing crisis.<sup>1</sup> The Adirondacks are home to the source of the Hudson River at Lake Tear of the Clouds on Mount Marcy and Riverkeeper is supportive of any effort to reduce road salt inputs into the Hudson River watershed

In the Adirondacks, twenty-five percent of the roadways within the park are managed by the NYS Department of Transportation. This legislation will create a task force charged with offering recommendations for best practices and levels of service that will accomplish reductions in road salt contamination of waterways and groundwater, in addition to maintaining road safety. The legislation will allow for NYS DOT to utilize recommendations from the task force in various pilot programs to test the efficacy of recommendations to accomplish the dual goals of the task force.

For these reasons, Riverkeeper strongly supports this legislation to address the growing challenge of road salt contamination in New York State's Adirondack Park while maintaining road safety.

### **Riverkeeper strongly supports A.8767/S.6824 (Jones/Little)**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report\\_road\\_salt.pdf](https://www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report_road_salt.pdf)