



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

**COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE-ANNE SAYLES**

**AT LARGE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Barve,

I am writing to express my support for [HB0216](#), which would establish a Salt Applicator Certification Program requiring commercial applicators to participate in the program, and report and record their salt usage. I proudly signed onto a [petition](#) organized by residents in Montgomery County that outlines initiatives our government should take to address the many hidden costs and harm caused due to excessive salt application:

- It raises the salt content in our drinking water (harmful for folks with high blood pressure or kidney disease);
- It corrodes our cars, bridges, pipes, and roads, leading to \$5 billion in annual repairs;
- It kills vegetation and, in streams, fish, amphibians, microorganisms; and
- It can leave animals' paw pads irritated, dry, and cracked.

Further, we have seen that commercial applicators routinely use more salt than is needed, contributing disproportionately to the damages caused by salt usage in our environment. It is beneficial to our communities to track the amount of salt used annually, since this data is currently nonexistent.

On behalf of residents of Montgomery County, I respectfully ask that you please support this legislation as the Chair for the Environment and Transportation Committee. I appreciate your consideration and all you do to advocate for a cleaner, safer environment in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Laurie-Anne Sayles

Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

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