

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2010, Legislative Day No. 6

Resolution No. 15-10

Councilmembers Gardina & McIntire

By the County Council, March 15, 2010

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council requesting the County Executive to create a task force to investigate and report on the environmental and health issues emanating from the use of road salt to melt ice and snow.

WHEREAS, most jurisdictions, including Baltimore County, use road salt to clear County roads of snow and ice during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality has reviewed the environmental impacts of road salt application in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Commission report concluded that there are significant negative environmental impacts - on drinking water, human health, private property, ecosystem sustainability, and the infrastructure - associated with the use of road salt; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that the County should seek to reduce the use of road salt by investigating alternatives and by promoting sustainable road salt application practices for County operations; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the County Executive is requested to appoint a task force composed of representatives of the Office of Budget and Finance, the Departments of Health, Environmental Protection and Resource Management, and Public Works, and such other public and private sector representatives, in the Executive's discretion, to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the effects of using salt on County roads versus the use of other possible alternatives, considering not only the short-term financial costs, but also the impacts on the environment, public health, and the infrastructure;
2. Prepare a cost-benefit analysis of the use of road salt and alternatives;
3. Establish stricter guidelines and protocols to regulate the distribution of road salt in order to minimize environmental impacts; and
4. Increase awareness of the environmental impacts of road salt.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the County Executive and County Council on or before August 1, 2010.

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