

Subject: Concerns with Bill 34-23

Dear Montgomery County Council Members,

I am writing to you as the owner and operator of a few McDonald's restaurants in Montgomery County. We've had an established presence in Montgomery County for over 30 years. I have serious concerns regarding the proposed Council Bill 34-23, which seeks to establish a wage commission that would put forward recommendations on minimum wages and working conditions.

Our industry thrives best when local owner-operators can assess and adapt to the needs of our community firsthand. It's concerning that local expertise and community know-how could be superseded by recommendations from an unelected commission. This could lead to new regulations fast-tracked toward approval without due consideration of the complexities that our industry and community face daily.

The provisions in Bill 34-23 are both unnecessary and untimely. Montgomery County already exemplifies excellent commitment to workers' rights, with a host of laws in place to protect employees – which we proudly comply with.

But to add this bill on top of all of these is overkill – our small businesses need to be lifted up at this time, not kicked back down. To be clear, I am an independent franchisee and small business owner. Inflation is running rampant and Montgomery County's small businesses need the independence to navigate successfully through both good times and bad.

On behalf of small businesses and other franchise owner-operators across Montgomery County, I respectfully ask that you consider the consequences of Bill 34-23. I hope you will embrace a more collaborative approach that includes stakeholders of all kinds, including restauranters like myself.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Cleghorn
McDonald's Owner/operator