

Saanvi Lanke, 7th Grade Student

Testimony in Favor of Supplemental Appropriation #25-69, Spending/Community Grant
Round 2

Hello Montgomery County Council,

My name is Saanvi Lanke, and I am a proud Montgomery County Public School student. I'm writing in strong support of Supplemental Appropriation #25-69. This appropriation represents a meaningful investment in both environmental restoration and racial equity, planting trees, revitalizing watersheds, and empowering historically underserved communities.

Local investment in watershed restoration and urban canopy expansion is essential. These projects improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and local streams, reduce urban heat and air pollution, and help mitigate flooding and erosion in our neighborhoods. Montgomery County is a leader in advancing climate and equity goals, but to truly fulfill this promise, we must initiate programs. Approving this appropriation is a necessary and practical step forward.

What makes this proposal especially impactful is its commitment to justice. Nearly half of the grant funding would go directly to BIPOC-led organizations and communities with large populations of color or low-income residents. These groups are often on the frontlines of environmental harm, but left behind in the solutions. By resourcing community-based organizations that know their neighborhoods best, we ensure these projects are rooted in equity.

I've seen how uneven access to green spaces can shape communities. In some areas of our county, streets are lined with trees and shaded parks. In others, not so much. As a student concerned about the future, I believe this funding can help bridge that divide, turning overlooked spaces into healthier, greener, more vibrant places to live and learn.

I urge you to approve Supplemental Appropriation #25-69 without hesitation. This is more than just a budget item, it's an opportunity to invest in the environment, in equity, and in our collective well-being. With your leadership, we can create a more resilient and just Montgomery County for generations to come. Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

Thanks, Saanvi Lanke