

From:

Nina [REDACTED]

DATE 12/2/25

ITEM NO. RA 16

Sent:

Monday, November 24, 2025 4:00 PM

To:

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Dear Melissa,

I am wholeheartedly in favor of an ordinance to regulate certain unpaved county roads to maintain health standards for our air quality. I am a local physician, fellowship trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and for the 45 years I have been in healthcare, early cancer detection and reduction of cancer risk have been my top priorities.

When heavy trucks kick up dirt on unpaved roads, we unknowingly breathe in very tiny dust particles, which make their way down deep into our lungs reaching our tiny air sacs (alveoli). Being so tiny, these particles may not stimulate a cough to get rid of them and so they stay lodged in the air sacs, where they can damage immune cells, induce inflammation and oxidative stress, and impair lung function. This can lead to chronic lung conditions such as asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease, and bronchitis. This can also lead to lung cancer. It is at the level of the air sacs where gas exchange takes place - oxygen in and carbon dioxide out. Tiny dust particles can then travel out of our lungs via the bloodstream and lodge in other organs, where they also damage immune cells and induce inflammation and oxidative stress and put us at risk for organ dysfunction and cancer.

Air pollution is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the sixth leading cause of death and disease worldwide. A pregnant woman breathing in polluted air can unknowingly cause damage to her fetus, leading to health effects that can last a lifetime. A child's exposure to air pollution can result in a diagnosis of cancer decades later. Cancer is now the leading cause of death in the United States in young adults between 15 and 39.

Air pollution from dust emissions is analogous to how microplastics, also very tiny particles, can adversely affect our health and lead to cancer. At least we have some control over our ingestion of microplastics. But we cannot control how many microplastics nor how many tiny dust particles we breathe in. The answer is not to get these potentially toxic particles in our air in the first place.

We are relying on the Board of Supervisors to protect the air we breathe. Air is in the public domain and we have the right to breathe clean air.

Chemical treatment of unpaved roads is not a safe answer to manage dust emissions. There are more than 150 varieties of chemical treatments on the market. Most lack formal specifications, do not adhere to environmental testing requirements, and require annual applications. Companies that use heavy trucks might

CLERK'S NOTE:  
COPY TO SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE 11/24/25 *ms*  
cc: Transportation - Kathryn Skinner *KS*

tell you that the products they use are biodegradable, clean or natural, and environmentally sustainable. They and the product manufacturers know all the buzz words.

We do not want an unreliable and likely dangerous chemical treatment used to tamp down unpaved roads. We must consider the potential risk for contamination of our groundwater and the poisoning of our vegetation and wildlife. Preventing dust emissions with an ordinance to regulate certain unpaved county roads is essential to protect our lungs, the purity of our groundwater, and the safety of our vegetation and wildlife.

I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to pass the ordinance. We are relying on you to maintain healthy air quality for all of us.

Sincerely,

Nina Luxenberg, MD

[REDACTED]