Sample Letter an organization or individual can send to a hospital/Health Network

Dear [Name/Title],

I am writing on behalf of the **_____ (your organization),** a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the _____ Creek and its surrounding watershed through community engagement, education, and collaborative projects with local partners. Over the past year watershed groups have been working with municipalities, institutions, and large facilities across PA to address the growing concern of excessive winter salt use and its impact on our creeks and drinking water.

Chloride-based deicers used on roads, sidewalks, and parking lots do not break down in the environment. Once applied, they move directly into groundwater, streams, and eventually to drinking water supplies. Water treatment plants are not designed to remove chloride compounds, meaning that salt applied on land ultimately becomes salt in our water. Watershed groups in PA have documented clear seasonal spikes in chloride concentrations that correlate with winter maintenance practices.

_____'s **(name hospital system)** facilities play an important role in the health of our community, and your campuses are located within sensitive watershed areas. Because of this, we are reaching out to explore a partnership focused on reducing oversalting while maintaining the highest standards of safety and fall prevention, a balance that many institutions across the country are now successfully achieving.

The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota reduced its salt use by approximately 60% through improved calibration, staff training, brining, and data-driven application rates. Their experience demonstrates that large healthcare systems can significantly reduce salt use without compromising safety. The University of Rochester Medical Center has also had excellent results reducing salt use while maintaining safety.

Our goal is to support **_____ (name hospital system)** in a similar effort. **_____ (your organization)** is not opposed to the use of salt for winter safety; rather, we hope to work with you to reduce unnecessary overapplication. We recognize the pressures your teams face to prevent slips and falls, and we deeply respect the essential work your facilities staff perform under challenging winter conditions. Our intention is to be a resource and ally as you explore best practices.

We would like to request a meeting with the appropriate facilities personnel to discuss:

- Current winter maintenance practices on **(name hospital system)** campuses
- Opportunities to evaluate salt-reduction strategies
- Data and tools that can support decision-making

A winter salting resource page specifically for property managers is found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZRrUmRNBKd8eQKL8JMGYiYYizrctNYNN

We believe this collaboration can benefit both environmental and public health, aligning with **(name hospital system)**'s mission to care for the well-being of the communities you serve.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to protect the _____ Creek, safeguard drinking water supplies, and support **(name hospital system)** leadership in sustainable winter maintenance practices.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title/Role]
(your organization),

[Contact Information]