



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0209 – Plastic Packaging and Reduction Act
February 6, 2020

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments **IN SUPPORT** of **HB0209 – Plastic Packaging and Reduction Act**. ShoreRivers represents more than 3500 local members and our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

This legislation will (1) prevent a store from providing a plastic carryout bag to a customer, (2) require a store to charge, collect and retain at least 10 cents for each carryout bag that a store does provide to a customer, (3) issue a civil penalty not to exceed \$500 for violating this legislation, (4) prevents a store from being issued a penalty more than once within a 7-day period, (5) allow a county government to offer no more than two waivers to a store that can prove undue hardship, (6) require the department to adopt regulations to implement this legislation, and (7) establishing a single-use products workgroup to address other single-use plastic products.

The Town of Chestertown prohibited the use of non-recyclable and non-biodegradable single use plastic bags in 2011. Retailers were able to quickly adapt to the changes and there is a noticeable reduction in plastic bags littering our local lands and waters. While this was a good first step, other single-use, persistent trash like water bottles, plastic food containers, and cans continue to pollute our environment.

By prohibiting the use of plastic bags and creating a Workgroup to address other single-use products, the Plastic Packaging and Reduction Act provides an important first step and a clear pathway to more comprehensive waste reform. **It is simply irresponsible to create 1000 years of negative impact from a piece of trash that was used for just a few minutes.**

Thank you for your leadership by taking an important step to prevent trash from entering Maryland's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, ShoreRivers urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB0209**.

Sincerely,

Tim Trumbauer
Chester Riverkeeper, on behalf of:

ShoreRivers

Jeff Horstman, Executive Director
Tim Trumbauer, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper
Elle Bassett, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper

