

# **BlueWaterBaltimore\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Aiosa, Jenn

Position: FAV



February 20, 2020

**Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (SB313)**

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee:

Blue Water Baltimore's mission is to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. We undertake our work in partnership with many groups and communities across the Baltimore region. **We write today to both support the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (SB313) to ban plastic bags in Maryland and to express our concern regarding the potential for disparate impacts on Marylanders experiencing poverty.**

As currently written, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (SB313) would ban plastic bags and impose a ten-cent fee on other bags provided at checkout to encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags when shopping. We fully support this bill's intent to reduce pollution in our streets and streams; we also share the concern that such fees may pose a disparate burden on Marylanders who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) assistance program to purchase food.

Blue Water Baltimore respectfully requests that the committees explore ways to lessen the impact of this bill on Marylanders experiencing poverty. While the simplest solution, enacted in New York and California, may be to exempt SNAP and WIC participants from the ten-cent fee on paper bags, or to create a provision that would return a portion of collected fees to grocery outlets that provide bags to SNAP and WIC participants without charge, we understand that either of these options may also cause unintended consequences locally. To this end, we believe the bill's Work Group should be required to not only evaluate potential impacts but also to bring back to the legislature a solution to mitigate such impacts.

To be clear, our intent is not to kill this bill; we support the urgency of reducing single-use plastic convenience items that all too frequently pollute our streets and streams. Simply stated, this issue is more complex than meets the eye. Blue Water Baltimore does not possess the expertise to recommend, without doubt, what resolution will meet our waste-reduction goals without harming our neighbors on the economic margins. Blue Water Baltimore supports SB313; we also support a time-bound, structured approach to determining an equitable solution for SNAP and WIC recipients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Aiosa  
Executive Director

# **AnneAmbler\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Ambler, Anne

Position: FAV

## **SB0313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

**Committee: Finance**

**Hearing date: February 20, 2020**

**Lead Sponsor: Senator Augustine**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

As a Montgomery County resident and watershed protector, I strongly support SB0313. In my many stream cleanups I have become intimately familiar with plastic of all sorts, from plastic bags caught in trees or on rocks in the stream, to those tiny flakes of plastic embedded in the dirt from bags of years gone by. I also participated in the Sierra Club's survey of carryout bag use at Montgomery and Prince George's counties grocery stores that demonstrated the beneficial effect of the 5-cent bag fee imposed by Montgomery County: reduced bag litter. But our observations showed that many people continued to use plastic carryout bags, whether because they simply accepted the extra cost or because the checkers often did not charge the 5 cents per bag. It appears that if we are serious about zeroing out this form of plastic pollution, we are going to have to ban these bags—and require stores to *sell*, not give, alternative bags, whether made of paper or something else—with a price floor high enough to make people notice.

In the meantime, since the Montgomery County carryout bag fee went into effect in January of 2012, so much more is known about the great harm caused by our overuse of plastic. Worse, we are discovering that what we thought we were recycling, may actually have been dumped on poor communities in Asia or into the ocean. As for bags, which have a questionable second life in the first place, and which many people mistakenly put in their recycling bins, I saw first hand at Montgomery County's transfer station how they clog the mechanism and stop the sorting line. Last year the focus was on expanded polystyrene foam. The next step toward environmental sanity is to ban these plastic bags used only a few minutes and discarded, perhaps to spew their toxins in an incinerator, fly off a land fill, or photodegrade into bits that absorb toxins and can be fatally mistaken for food by seabirds, marine mammals, and fish. Fun fact: we're actually eating plastic in the flesh of fish.<sup>1</sup>

A final consideration is that while we and the other creatures of the planet are suffering the health and environmental consequences of plastic *products* everywhere, their *production* is very harmful as well, from the escaping methane and toxic soup involved in fracking to the American communities disrupted by new and leaking pipelines carrying this fracked gas to plastic-making factories here and abroad. Ships carry our fracked gas to Scotland to make

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/plastic-microparticles-fish-flesh-eaten-humans-food-chain-mackerel-anchovy-mullet-a7860726.html>



plastic pellets--while Scotland has a moratorium on fracking because of its horrible effects. (See <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37474396>, "First US shale gas arrives at Ineos plant in Scotland," 28 September 2016.)

According to an article in Global Citizen,<sup>2</sup> plastic production will increase by 40% over the next decade, so really drastic action is called for. Maryland was wise to ban fracking. Last year the Maryland Legislature wisely banned expanded polystyrene. Plastic carryout bags are the next low-hanging fruit.

**We urge you to follow those wise decisions with a favorable report on SB0313. The time has come. Thank you for your consideration.**



Anne Ambler, [anambler@gmail.com](mailto:anambler@gmail.com)  
12505 Kuhl Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

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<sup>2</sup> [Plastic Production Is Set to Increase by 40% Over the Next Decade, Experts Say](#)  
"Bringing your fish home in a plastic bag one year and bringing that plastic bag home in a fish the next, is the reality," [said](#) Karmenu Vella, a commissioner at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

# **Anne Arundel County\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Baron, Peter

Position: FAV



February 20, 2020

**Senate Bill 313**

**Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Anne Arundel County Administration **SUPPORTS** SB 313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act. This Bill will help to eliminate a product that is used only once before clogging our waterways and contaminating our recycling waste stream.

In 2018, Anne Arundel County government and private retail businesses sent over 55,000 tons of film plastic to a collector business to be recycled into post-consumer products. For perspective, an Olympic-sized swimming pool holds 2,750 tons of water. In one year, our government, citizens, and businesses recycled the weight-equivalent of 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools. That is the good news. The bad news is this number does not speak to the amount of film plastic that was not properly recycled, and either contaminated the County's other recyclables or contaminated the environment.

In 2019, the County spent almost \$200,000 cleaning up litter, much of which consisted of single-use plastic bags. Additionally, the County was charged an additional \$360,000 by our recycling contractor for placing non-recyclable materials in recycling bins. Much of this non-recyclable material was film plastic, such as that used for single-use plastic bags. The plastic bags clog recycling machinery, become shredded, and "contaminate" the entire load of recyclables. When this happens, the load is either diverted from the recycling center to a landfill negating all the work that citizens, the County and the recycling company went through to conserve landfill space in the first place, or recycling companies offer a lower price to the County for a lower-quality product.

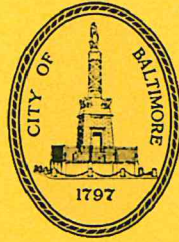
Over the last year Anne Arundel County has undertaken a costly, but necessary education and outreach campaign to remind residents that loose plastic bags cannot be placed in single-stream recycling bins. Removing plastic bags from the waste stream will not only improve our recycling and lower our overall costs, but it will protect our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 313.

# **LATE - MayorJackYoung\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Blendy, Nicholas

Position: FAV



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 313**

February 20, 2020

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 313 – Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 313.

Senate Bill 313 would prohibit a store from distributing plastic single-use carry out bags to a customer at the point of sale. The bill would require a store to charge and collect at least 10 cents for each durable carryout bag the store provides to a customer. The legislation also authorizes a store to retain all money collected under certain circumstances and provides certain penalties for violations under this Act. The bill also establishes the Single-Use Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding single use products.

Baltimore City, like many other Maryland jurisdictions, struggles with the problem of litter in its streets and waterways. The increase of plastic debris in the world's oceans is a growing crisis. Requiring individuals to use and pay for durable carryout bags gives them the opportunity to think about their use of plastic materials that have the potential to harm the environment. By reducing the use of plastic bags and packaging at the source, this legislation would benefit the goal of waste reduction.

If Maryland adopts this legislation, it would join many jurisdictions throughout the United States and internationally that have adopted or proposed bans and restrictions on plastic bags. The Baltimore City Council recently adopted a ban on plastic bags and a State-wide ban would strengthen our goal of less litter in our neighborhoods, waterways, and along our roadways.

Eliminating the use of plastic bags is a major step in resolving the challenges of litter and unnecessary waste while pursuing the goal of zero waste.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 313.

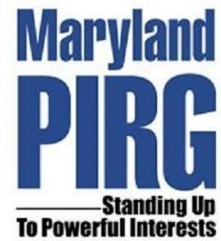
*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785  
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136  
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*

# **EnvironmentMaryland\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Breimann, Kate

Position: FAV





Environment Maryland  
Maryland PIRG  
Trash Free Maryland  
Kent Island Beach Cleanups

Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Earth Forum of Howard County  
Central Maryland Beekeepers  
Catonsville Indivisible

**SB 313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**  
**Finance**  
**February 11th, 2020**  
**Position: Favorable**

*Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space. We have thousands of members across the state and are based in Baltimore.*

*Maryland PIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government. We are a Baltimore based, statewide, non-partisan, non-profit, citizen-funded public interest advocacy organization with members across the state and a student-funded, student-directed chapter at the University of Maryland College Park.*

Chairwoman Kelley & Members of the Committee:

**This summer Environment Maryland staff knocked on 15,000 doors across the state to talk to Marylanders about plastic pollution and its impact on wildlife. Staff collected more than 5,000 petitions calling on Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly to take action on plastic pollution.**

We want to thank the General Assembly for its leadership in reducing plastic pollution through a ban on foam food packaging, and we hope this can be the year we bring the bag ban over the finish line.

Here are the top 10 reasons that we support this ban. In no particular order:

#1-Reduce Waste: According to the Center for Biological Diversity, a plastic bag is used for an average of 12 minutes, but can persist in our environment, and pollute our communities, for generations. Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our communities and the Bay for hundreds of years—especially when we don't really need it.

#2-Reduce Waste: Each year, the average American uses more than 300 single-use disposable bags, and only about 1% of these bags are returned for recycling, with even fewer actually going through the process. Additionally, plastic bags can only go through the recycling process once or twice - recycling delays a plastic bag's inevitable disposal in a landfill, our waterways, or an incinerator but it certainly doesn't prevent it.

#3-Reduce Waste: We do not need single use plastic bags. They were only introduced in this country in the 1970's. We had a civilized, modern society before these bags became part of everyday commercial life, and we need to move away from them.

#4-Reduce pollution: Plastic bag disposal is a lose/lose/lose. Virtually un-recyclable, when we dispose of them they end up buried in leaky landfills or burned in incinerators. If they get loose they end up littering our neighborhoods, roads, and waterways. Plastic bags are lightweight and can be caught by the wind and carried into our waterways where it eventually leads to the ocean. Plastic bag waste harms health, quality of life, and the environment.

#5-Reduce pollution: According to many different sources, it takes more than 500 years for a plastic bag to degrade. The bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

#6-Reduce pollution: For a bird or fish or turtle, it's easy to mistake a small piece of plastic for food—especially when there are millions of pieces of plastic floating in our waterways. Scientists have found plastic fragments in literally hundreds of species, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species, and 43% of all marine mammal species. Ingesting these fragments is often fatal. Animals starve when they ingest too much plastic that they can't digest.

#7-Protect our climate : Plastic bags are made of fossil fuels. The more plastic bags are manufactured, the more we are using fossil fuels. According to National Geographic about 8 percent of the world's oil production is used to make plastic and power the manufacturing of it. That figure is projected to rise to 20 percent by 2050. <sup>1</sup> Every part of a single-use plastic's lifespan emits greenhouse gases. From production to shipping to

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<sup>1</sup> Fast facts about plastic pollution. Laura Parker. National Geographic, Dec 20, 2018.  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/05/plastics-facts-infographics-ocean-pollution/>



disposal, single-use plastics make it increasingly less likely that we will stay beneath the 1.5 degree celsius threshold. If we fail to do that, we will be unable to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

#8-Promote the public interest: In almost every community which has considered or adopted plastic bans, you find the opponents representing huge industries. Manufacturers of plastic, supermarket chains, the petrochemical industry all have pushed hard against citizen initiatives to promote bans. Yet time and again, the public supports and win bans.

#9-Good public policy: Across the country, plastic bag bans have passed in over 350 cities and other communities. Some companies are also getting with the program. Kroger, the nation's largest grocer which includes Harris Teeter and others, has committed to phasing out plastic bags, and other stores like My Organic Market (MOM's) and Trader Joe's have already done away with them.

#10-Save money: It stands to reason that cleaning up plastic bag waste and cleaning it out of storm drains, among other places, costs money. One study citing data from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, noted that San Jose alone spends "at least \$3 million annually to clean plastic bags from creeks and clogged storm drains." Let's kick our plastic problem so we can save money, and ultimately send Mr. Trash Wheel into early retirement.

We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 313.

# **PlasticFreeQAC\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Cooney, Bente

Position: FAV



## Plastic Free QAC

1305 Oyster Cove Drive  
Grasonville, MD 21638  
703-307-8093

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 313 February 20, 2020 \* Senate Finance Committee

Hon. Senator Delores Kelley Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Delores Kelley, Chair, and Committee Members:

My name is Bente Cooney, founder of Plastic Free QAC, a nonprofit organization founded in 2018 around the issue of litter on the streets and waterways of our beautiful county and a realization that our world is drowning in single-use plastic. Our mission is to engage, inform and inspire Queen Anne's County residents and businesses to make more environmentally responsible choices.

With a strong sense that something has to be done and that every one of us has a responsibility to do our part to preserve the health and wellbeing of our shared environment, we have gathered some powerful data. This data supports our first goal of getting rid of single-use plastic shopping bags.

**First**, in 2019, as a result of our road clean ups, our volunteers picked up close to 1,000 plastic bags, 637 of those alone by Claude Lowery's farm across from Safeway in Chester! "We try to make our farm look neat and attractive," Mr. Lowery said recently, "but all those bags make it difficult." He supports the effort to get rid of disposable plastic bags, as do more than 90 other retailers in Queen Anne's County, surveyed last year. These retailers include not only farmers, but marinas, hotels, schools, shops, and restaurants.

**Second**, we have audited the four grocery stores in QAC and counted every shopper leaving each of the stores for one hour on two occasions. Out of 1,271 shoppers, only 8% used reusable shopping bags. Virtually all of the single-use, disposable bags were plastic. For comparison, we surveyed the Aldi grocery store in Easton, where no plastic bags are available. People brought their own reusable bags (61.5%) or carried their groceries loose in their carts without any bags (32.7%). Only 5.8% used disposable bags.

Only 5% of plastic bags are recycled. Legislators across the country are beginning to recognize the issue of single-use plastic. Already, seven states and 500 localities in the US have enacted bag ban laws. SB 313 not only bans certain single-use plastic bags, it allows retailers to sell paper bags for 10 cents apiece to shoppers who forget to bring their own reusable bags. Plastic Free QAC is excited about this proposed legislation and urge you to report SB 313 favorably out of Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Sincerely,

Bente Cooney

Founder

Plastic Free QAC

Attached: Queen Anne's County 2020 Shopper Survey

# Queen Anne's County 2020 Shopper Survey

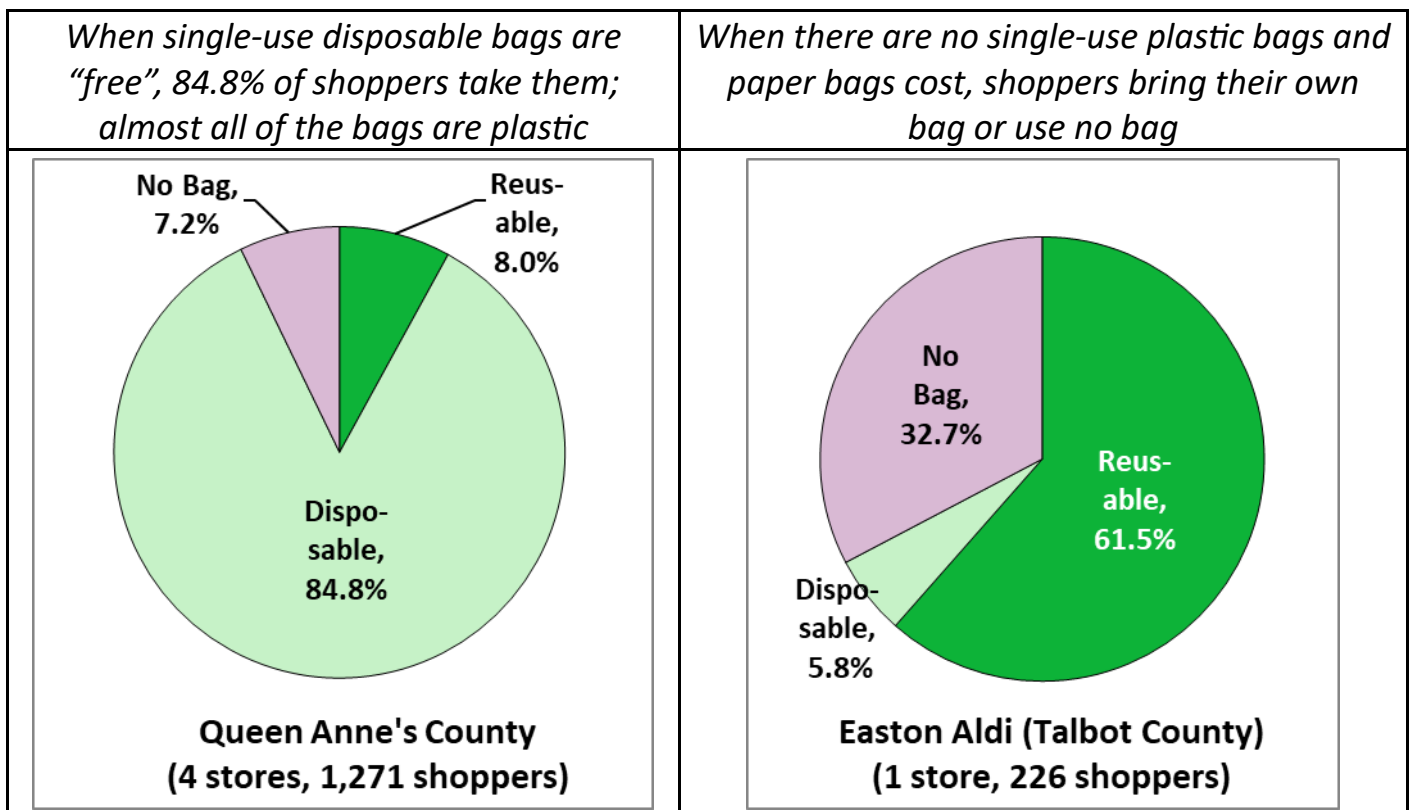
Plastic-Free QAC & Maryland Sierra Club  
January 11-19, 2020

**5** grocery stores, **1,497** shoppers, **12** volunteers

Stores	# stores	# shoppers	Reusable	Disposable	No Bag
Acme, Food Lion, Safeway*	4	1,271	8.0%	84.8%	7.2%
Aldi **	1	226	61.5%	5.8%	32.7%

These stores provide free carryout bags to shoppers. \*\*Nearest Aldi store, in Easton (Talbot County). Aldi does not provide any thin plastic bags, charges 7 cents for a paper bag, and more for various reusable bags.

**Virtually all (99.5%)** of the shoppers with single-use, disposable bags at the four QAC grocery stores had *plastic* bags.



**"FREE" CARRYOUT BAGS**

**BAGS AT COST, NO THIN PLASTIC**

# **SB313\_FAV\_KatieDay**

Uploaded by: Day, Katie

Position: FAV

**Rev. Katie Day, PhD**

**605 William St.**

**Cambridge, MD 21613**

**215-696-1421**

**kday@uls.edu**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB313**

**February 20, 2020 Senate Finance Committee**

*Chairwoman Delores Kelley & Members of the Committee:*

I am writing to urge your support of SB313, which would prohibit the use of plastic bags. As a resident of Cambridge, Md. I often see plastic bags in fields and in the Choptank River. As you know, these end up in the Chesapeake Bay, which is an endangered vital resource. With proposed cut-backs in Bay restoration in the federal budget, it is even more important that state and local governments act to protect the Chesapeake. As we say in Cambridge, “Water Moves Us.” It is not just for aesthetic reasons that we want to keep our waterways free of plastic bags, but because they harm the crabs and oysters that keep our economy moving as well.

Our city has been providing “poop stations” for dog walkers that provide recyclable plastic bags for cleaning up after our pets. Every small step contributes to larger change to save our planet.

Thank you for voting to ban plastic bags.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Katie Day

Charles A. Schieren Professor Emerita of Church and Society  
United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia

# **MOM's Organic Market\_FAV\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: DySard, Alexandra

Position: FAV





**RE: SB0313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**  
**Environment and Transportation**  
**Position: Favorable**

February, 20th 2020

Greetings Senator Augustine and members of the Economic Matters and Finance Committee,

On behalf of MOM's Organic Market, I would like to express our **support for the Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act**. My name is Alexandra DySard, and I am the Environmental Manager for MOM's and I'm also a Trash Free Maryland Board Member.

It is estimated that around one trillion plastic bags are consumed throughout the world every year - that's roughly one million plastic bags used each minute. As a grocery store we know there are many alternatives to plastic bags, MOM's banned plastic bags in 2005, when we were very small with just two stores. We moved to providing only paper and compostable PLA bags, and offering customers a \$.10 incentive for those who brought in their own bags. Company wide our customers now bring in over 7,500 reusable bags from home each day, showing us that incentivizing good, habitual behavior works. This year we will open our 21st store, so making this switch to a positive environmental practice in no way impeded our growth.

On land plastic bags can last up to 500 years for just a few minutes of use. The average amount of time most plastic bags are used is less than 12 minutes. They are just a carrying agent to transport something from one place to another. There is no reason to provide a customer something they will use for a few minutes that will still be here 15 generations from now!

Plastic Bag bans and charging for single use alternatives is a proven mechanism to change behavior and encourage other, more sustainable options. And we know they work...

- DC saw a 72% reduction in plastic bag litter after instituting a 5 cent bag fee.
- The City of San Jose saw an 89% reduction in plastic bags in their storm drain system
- A 60 percent reduction of plastic bag litter in their waterways
- And a 59 percent reduction in plastic bag litter in neighborhoods after instituting its plastic bag ban.

Now you may be thinking, but I thought plastic bags were recyclable. Less than 8% of all plastic in the US is recycled. As a business who used to collect residents' plastic bags I can honestly tell you there is not a market. There are also no Public Works Departments, Maryland municipalities or curbside recycling programs that allow plastic bags for recycling. If they don't biodegrade and they can't be recycled, then they need to be banned.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. You have the opportunity to be leaders on this issue and I urge you to vote favorably on **SB0313**.

Thank you,

Alexandra DySard  
MOM's Organic Market

**MDPHA\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Eck, Raimee

Position: FAV



**Mission:** To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy

**Vision:** Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

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## SB 313: Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Committee: Finance

Position: SUPPORT

February 20, 2020

The Maryland Public Health Association appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter of support for SB 313 to prohibit the distribution of plastic carryout bags, thereby significantly reducing the overall proliferation of single-use plastics. The thin plastic used in single-use plastic bags takes between 400 and 1,000 years to completely break down. As these plastics degrade over time, they release toxic additives into the environment. These additives may include flame retardants, antimicrobials, and plasticizers, which have been linked with severe adverse health outcomes such as cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption, developmental and reproductive effects.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the image of plastic bags as litter causes detrimental psychological effects.<sup>2</sup>

Plastic bags are not “free.” Their cost is passed onto consumers by businesses through higher costs on other products or services. They litter our communities and waterways where governmental and volunteer organizations remove thousands of them annually.

When in a landfill or the environment, the toxics from bags can leach out and cause harm to fragile ecosystems. Marine animals have been known to confuse plastic bags for food which can lead to blocked digestive tracts and eventual deaths. One in three dead leatherback turtles were found in San Francisco Bay with some form of plastics in their digestive tract; many times, it was a plastic bag.<sup>3</sup> Hundreds of other species of birds, fish, and other marine animals have been found with plastic in their systems.<sup>4</sup> When marine life forms ingest plastics that have degraded, the plastics and associated toxins can travel up the food chain to infect people.<sup>5</sup>

Plastic pollution is a global problem with local solutions. Banning the free distribution of bags is widely considered an appropriate and practical legislative action that can protect our environment and save financial resources. Thank you for your consideration.

MdPHA is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education efforts and advocacy of public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our nation.

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<sup>1</sup> Rustagi, N., Pradhan, S. K., & Singh, R. (2011). Public health impact of plastics: An overview. *Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 15(3), 100–103. doi:10.4103/0019-5278.93198

<sup>2</sup> Wyles, K. J., Pahl, S., Thomas, K., & Thompson, R. C. (2015). Factors that can undermine the psychological benefits of coastal environments: Exploring the effect of tidal state, presence, and type of litter. *Environment and Behavior*, doi:10.1177/0013916515592177

<sup>3</sup> Bean, L. 2013. “Silent Killers: The Danger of Plastic Bags to Marine Life”, EcoWatch, August 6 2013. <http://ecowatch.com/2013/the-danger-of-plastic-bags-to-marine-life/>

<sup>4</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2012. “Impacts of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions”, CBD Technical Series No. 67. <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/cbd-ts-67-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Rochman, C. M., Kurobe, T., Flores, I., & Teh, S. J. (2014). Early warning signs of endocrine disruption in adult fish from the ingestion of polyethylene with and without sorbed chemical pollutants from the marine environment. *Science of the Total Environment*, 493, 656–661. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.06.051>

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Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)

PO Box 7045 • 6801 Oak Hall Ln • Columbia, MD 21045-9998

GetInfo@MdPHA.org [www.mdpha.org](http://www.mdpha.org) 443.475.0242

# **SB 313 Testimony\_ Corina Fratila**

Uploaded by: Fratila, Corina

Position: FAV

7 Charlesbrooke Rd,  
Baltimore, MD 21212

**Testimony on SB 313**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**February 15, 2020**

Dear Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee,

As you are aware, we are in a plastic pollution crisis. Every minute of every day a garbage truck worth plastic enters our waterways. It is time to address this issue by supporting bill SB313 Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act (PPRA).

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0209?ys=2020RS>

If we carry on as usual, this is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050. By 2050, this could mean there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. The system needs to change.

2 million single-use plastic bags are consumed every minute. These bags often wind up in waterways and our landscape, degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits. These bags have a massive carbon footprint.

Beginning on New Year's Day, Mom's Organic Market, with ten Maryland locations, stopped accepting plastic bags for recycling. Mom's reluctantly told its customers that the material was being incinerated as waste to energy, and was therefore misleading to customers to offer plastic bag recycling.

Switching to paper is not the answer. The carbon footprint of paper bags is even bigger. Paper production uses trees that could instead be absorbing carbon dioxide, releases more greenhouse gases, takes 3 times the amount of water, and results in 50 times more water pollutants. We can bring our own bags.

But there are people who need more than intrinsic environmental values to remember their bags. They need a nudge. This bill is that nudge.

This type of legislation has proven successful around the world, but we do not need to look further than our own backyard to prove the point.

Montgomery County, MD: A 5 cent fee on paper and single-use plastic bags reduced single-use bag use by 42 percentage points (from 82% to 40%). Washington, DC: City officials say plastic bag usage has plummeted 50 to 70 percent since the fee took effect in 2009 and in 2017, more than three-quarters of city businesses complied with the law – the largest proportion so far.

I am asking for a favorable report on SB313 The Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act.

Corina Fratila, M.D.

Ideal Endocrinology, LLC

[www.idealendocrinology.com](http://www.idealendocrinology.com)

Resources:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/every-minute-one-garbage-truck-of-plastic-is-dumped-into-our-oceans/>

[https://scaan.net/docs/ScAAN\\_Bags\\_report.pdf](https://scaan.net/docs/ScAAN_Bags_report.pdf)

# **SB0313\_National Aquarium\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Fredriksson, Ryan

Position: FAV



# NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: February 20, 2020

Bill: SB 313- Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Position: Support

Contact:

**Ryan Fredriksson**

Director, Government Affairs

410-385-8276

[rfredriksson@aqua.org](mailto:rfredriksson@aqua.org)

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests your support for **Senate Bill 313 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**, which will limit the harmful impact plastic bags have on neighborhoods and wildlife across Maryland, and create a workgroup to discuss comprehensive statewide solutions to the pollution and proliferation of single-use products. The National Aquarium believes that plastic pollution is an issue we can stop in our lifetime. This bill is an important step in making that a reality.

An estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the ocean each year; that is equivalent to at least one dump truck full of plastic entering the ocean every minute. Once in the environment, plastic debris breaks down into smaller pieces, but they never completely disappear. This plastic debris, including plastic bags, is a hazard for wildlife and habitats, as animals may confuse plastic pieces for food. Over half of all marine mammal species have been impacted by plastic pollution and it is estimated more than 90% of seabirds will ingest plastic by 2050.

On average, the lifespan of a plastic bag is 12 minutes. The flimsiness that makes plastic bags cheap and plentiful also makes them virtually unrecyclable. When that bag is discarded, it will almost certainly not be recycled. It will go into a landfill, be incinerated or end up in the environment. Plastic bags are easily blown by the wind and end up in trees, rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and eventually our one, interconnected ocean.

There is ample evidence from around the world that eliminating plastic bags from checkout aisles is an effective way to dramatically reduce the harmful impacts of bags on our environment. If this bill passes, Maryland will join a growing number of states and communities across the country to recognize this is a serious problem with an easily recognizable solution.

Equally important to removing plastic bags from checkout aisles, a price floor for alternative bags, such as paper, is necessary to begin to change public behavior. Without a price floor, the state would be replacing plastic litter with paper litter. Only by changing attitudes and behavior will we begin to address the root causes of plastic pollution. Consumers can easily avoid paying any additional price by using a reusable bag.

If current practices continue, plastic input into the ocean is expected to double by 2025. The best way to stop or reverse this trend is through a comprehensive and holistic solution. The National Aquarium defines a comprehensive solution using four key approaches: stop plastic pollution at its source; change behaviors; clean up existing plastic pollution; and provide education and outreach. The workgroup established by this bill is necessary to study how the state can use these approaches to responsibly address the growing problem of plastic pollution and reliance on single-use products.

As part of the National Aquarium's mission *to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures*, we take seriously our responsibility to educate our visitors and the surrounding community about the negative impact plastic pollution has on the health of people, wildlife and ecosystems. SB 313 is a critical step in the right direction because it will eliminate one of the most prevalent and harmful forms of plastic pollution and create a workgroup to study how the state manages single-use products. **We urge the Committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 313.**



**FZWA\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Gallagher, Patrice

Position: FAV



**Testimony Supporting SB-313  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 20, 2020**

Hon. Dolores Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Committee Members:

We are a citizen organization originally founded to oppose an incinerator project that was set to be built jointly by Frederick and Carroll Counties, in Frederick County. After a number of years, we prevailed, and both counties have been working on ways to manage “waste” that make better sense than to burn it.

We are passionate about improving all of the ways individuals and municipalities handle “waste” — which is more appropriately referred to as “resources.”

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The use of single use plastics, including bags, is a crisis that individuals and municipalities must face head on. Our oceans and all waterways are affected by the pollution from plastic bags, and the increasing effects on fish and other water based animals are dire.

Naturally, when plastic in our water is ingested by fish, humans and other animals up the food chain subsequently take those plastic particles and toxins into their bodies as well.

Why should we continue to allow this?

It is shocking to realize that about ONE TRILLION plastic shopping bags are used each year, worldwide! And only once... for 15 minutes, on average. This is simply unsustainable.

Before the advent of plastic bags — not so long ago — shoppers managed to shop without them. Yes, paper bags are not ideal, either, but the point is that we can manage without plastic bags; without automatically-offered and “free” bags to carry our wares, humans will adapt and use reusable bags, without anywhere near the kind of disruptions to our planet that we are causing by using plastic bags. If stores charge 10 cents for a reusable bag or a paper bag, it will further the human behavioral change needed to shift to reusable bags being the norm.

What a relief to our ecosystem this change would be!

Legislators: let’s do this. Please issue a favorable report on HB-209.

Many thanks for your attention and consideration.

Patrice Gallagher, Board President

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FREDERICKZEROWASTE](https://www.facebook.com/frederickzerowaste)

THE FREDERICK ZERO WASTE ALLIANCE REPRESENTS CITIZENS IN FREDERICK COUNTY WHOSE GOAL IS TO REDUCE OUR COMMUNITY’S SOLID WASTE TO A MINIMUM, USING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE METHODS.

# **DanielleGlaros\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Glaros, Danielle

Position: FAV



Dannielle M. Glaros  
Council Member  
Council District 3  
(301) 952-3060

*Together Strengthening Our Community*

February 19, 2020

Chair Delores G. Kelley  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley,

Several weeks ago, on my normal morning drive, I started to count the number of plastic bags that hung in the trees along the mostly scenic 16-mile route. I lost count after 25. They were hanging in trees on both sides of the road in front of Watkins Park. There was barely a stretch that a plastic bag couldn't be seen. I hope you will make 2020 the year Maryland addresses plastic bags littering our parks, roadways, and neighborhoods.

I urge you to support HB 209/SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, and create a statewide solution. The entire Prince George's County Council voted to support this legislation a few weeks ago.

Single-use plastic bags are a large source of the litter across Prince George's County and our entire state. They are virtually un-recyclable and do not biodegrade. They clog our recycling facilities and storm drains and are carried into our waterways. They are ingested by birds, fish and marine animals and pollute our food. They breakdown into microplastics and pollute our water. This matters not only for Prince George's County but for our entire state—from Cumberland to Havre de Grace to Ocean City.

Many retailers and restaurants across the state are already showing us that we can change behavior, improve our environment, and neighborhood quality of life. Costco, Lidl, and Aldi are some of the most popular, low-cost food stores and yet none provide free bags to customers. Whole Foods gives a credit to people who bring their own bags which can be donated to a local nonprofit and only provides paper options.

I deeply appreciate your commitment to the residents of Maryland and thank you for the hard work you will undertake this session. Should you have any questions or desire to speak with me further, please contact me on my cell 240-416-5803 or [dmglaros@co.pg.md.us](mailto:dmglaros@co.pg.md.us). I look forward to working with each of you to be part of the effort to reduce plastic bag litter in Maryland.

Together Strengthening Our Community,

Dannielle Glaros

# **SB 313 testimony Chris Hazynski**

Uploaded by: Hazynski, Chris

Position: FAV

**Testimony on SB 313**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**February 13, 2020**

Dear Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee,

I fully support Maryland passing legislation to eliminate plastic waste including bags, straws, Styrofoam, etc. Plastic waste kills wildlife, destroys the planet, contaminates our food chain, clogs storm drains, causes litter and pollution, takes up space in landfills, costs millions annually to clean up, causes blight and unsightliness, etc.

The time for talk is over and action needs to be taken. What is more important than having a healthy, sustainable environment that is free from trash and pollution?

Chris Hazynski  
[mchazy77@hotmail.com](mailto:mchazy77@hotmail.com)

# **Arundel Rivers Federation\_Jesse Iliff\_FAV\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: Iliff, Jesse

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance  
Legislation: SB0313  
Position: FAVORABLE  
Date: February 20, 2020

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Arundel Rivers Federation requests a favorable report for SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (“the Act”), a bill carefully crafted to change reckless, wasteful consumption habits of relatively recent origin, but with consequences that will last centuries. The reduction of plastic waste in the environment by banning the routine, thoughtless use of plastic bags at the point of sale will not only improve the aesthetics of our roadways and communities, it will improve the recycling of other waste products, and save local governments and their contractors money. Perhaps most importantly, reducing plastic waste will protect the environment, and benefit human health. These goals can be accomplished while protecting the business community by leveling current playing field in the state that is a hodge-podge of bans and fees of various values and distributions, and covering the cost to retailers of durable carryout paper bags. Accordingly, the Federation urges a favorable report.

### **Introduction**

Some on this committee may have heard of the Great Pacific Trash Gyre. The Gyre is a swirling mass of plastic waste, collecting in the Pacific Ocean, roughly the size of Mexico.<sup>1</sup> Such a massive amount of garbage is hard to fathom and is so far away that one tends to push it out of one’s mind. However, single-use plastics present serious problems here in Maryland too.

In the summer of 2017 Arundel Rivers Federation built a trash trap in a stream flowing into the South River, about two miles from 11 Bladen Street where we sit today. To date, Arundel Rivers Federation staff have collected hundreds of plastic shopping bags from the trap, preventing their entry into the South River and the Chesapeake Bay. Although effective, the trash trap is not perfect, and bags occasionally float around it in heavy storms or make it through the mesh of the trap. Many streams in suburban and urban watershed in the Chesapeake Bay region are similarly littered with plastic bags caught in tree roots and sticks, clogging streams, causing erosion and degrading habitat.

This is one stream flowing into one creek on one small river of the Chesapeake Bay. The Great Pacific Trash Gyre results from a global problem, and we should think globally about plastic waste and our contribution to it. Walk any stream in your district and you are likely to see the same pollution of plastic bags there. Senate Bill 313 is an important way to act locally, and we urge your favorable report.

### **Litter**

Plastic bags festooning street side trees have become so ubiquitous it is hard to even notice anymore. However, if you pay attention while traveling any road in our State or beyond, it will not be long before you spot one. Once you start looking, they are everywhere, wavering in the branches of trees and chain link fences like ghosts. This all-too-familiar disgrace can end with this bill. Once people start planning to bring a bag with them to the store for a few weeks or months, it will become second nature and we will wonder how we ever became so dependent on plastic bags in the first place.

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<sup>1</sup> National Geographic- <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/ocean-plastic-patch-south-pacific-spd/#close>



## **Recycling and Plastic Bags**

In the wake of China's recent refusal to process US recycling products, it has become increasingly clear to local and state governments that plastic bags pose a serious problem for recycling overall, as they clog up the machinery used to sort and process other recyclables.<sup>2</sup> In Chicago, the City's recycling center estimates the cost of freeing equipment from plastic bags at \$9,500/month.<sup>3</sup> Rather than incur the cost, some jurisdictions, like Anne Arundel County, have banned plastic bags from their recycling containers, and despite robust public outreach efforts advising of the ban, must sometimes direct recycling contaminated with plastic bags to the landfill.<sup>4</sup>

The behavior change contemplated by this bill will ensure that less, if any, plastic bags wind up clogging recycling equipment in the State and costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor and maintenance costs, or causing otherwise valuable recyclables to be thrown out because of contamination.

## **Aquatic Life and Human Health**

Studies showing the harmful effects of microplastics (like those generated by the disintegration of plastic bags) on aquatic fauna are legion. Anyone who has picked up litter on a beach understands that plastic bags easily break down into tinier and tinier pieces. Eventually these pieces become particles of microplastics and are ingested by marine life. This ingestion has a number of deleterious effects on marine life from oysters and menhaden to pelicans and sea turtles. Microplastics also travel up the food chain from plankton to filter feeders, to the fish we eat, like Rockfish and Atlantic Salmon.<sup>5</sup> Along the way, plastic particles absorb other toxic pollution, which also makes its way into fish, and then into humans.<sup>6</sup>

## **Conclusion**

There are ample reasons to speed this bill to passage and we have articulated some above. But the big question this committee must answer is: Are the citizens of our state are capable of positive change? I suspect that as legislators, you honorable Delegates long ago decided that the answer to this question is yes. Otherwise, why bother serving a public that is incapable of realizing the goals and requirements of the laws you make?

Arundel Rivers shares the view that positive change is possible, and we suggest that as it pertains to plastic bags, it is necessary. Please vote favorably on SB 313, which will make a positive change in the lives of all Marylanders.

Respectfully submitted,



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Jesse L. Iliff  
South, West & Rhode RIVERKEEPER®  
Arundel Rivers Federation, Inc.  
jesse@arundelrivers.org

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<sup>2</sup> For Example, see Washington D.C.'s policy on plastic bags in recycling here: <https://zerowaste.dc.gov/plasticbagremoval>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-plastic-bag-ban-recycling-0731-biz-20150730-story.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.capitalgazette.com/opinion/columns/ac-ce-column-phipps-20190525-story.html>

<sup>5</sup> Food Chain Transport of Nanoparticles Affects Behaviour and Fat Metabolism in Fish. Cedervall T, Hansson L-A, (2012). Available at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032254>

<sup>6</sup> The Complex Interaction between Marine Debris and Toxic Chemicals in the Ocean. Engler, Richard E. Environmental Science & Technology 2012, vol 46. no.22, 12302-12315. Available at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es3027105>

# **MDSierraClub\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Jacobs, Sydney

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter

7338 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740-3211

**Committee:** Finance  
**Testimony on:** SB 313 “Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act”  
**Position:** Support  
**Hearing Date:** February 20, 2020

**The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, one of our priority bills in 2020.** This legislation would prohibit retailers from providing plastic carryout bags at the point of sale and require them to charge at least 10 cents for paper or other carryout bags. Lastly, the bill would establish a work group to recommend further actions to reduce plastic and single-use container waste in Maryland.

**The world is facing a plastic pollution crisis, and carryout bags are a major culprit.** Every year, our oceans take in an estimated 5 million-13 million tons of plastic from land-based sources.<sup>1</sup> Plastic bags are among the top five plastic products collected in beach cleanups in the U.S.<sup>2</sup> Lightweight and picked up by a breeze, littered plastic carryout bags are blown or washed into waterways and the oceans, where they degrade into small pieces, absorbing toxic chemicals. Intact, or as microplastic particles, the bags are ingested by marine life, injuring and killing fish, seabirds, and marine mammals.<sup>3</sup> On land, plastic bag litter blows far and wide until it is snagged by a tree or a fence. It can be lethal if ingested by livestock or wildlife. These bags have about a 15-minute “working life,” but last for centuries or more in the environment.

**Plastic bags are ubiquitous -- worldwide, in the U.S., and in Maryland.** Worldwide, shoppers use an estimated one trillion plastic bags each year; about 100 billion plastic carryout bags are used annually in the U.S., or about 305 bags per capita. Marylanders are contributing nearly two billion plastic carryout bags per year to this total.<sup>4</sup> Fieldwork conducted by the Sierra Club at major grocery stores in Maryland that provide free carryout bags found that 76% to 89% of shoppers use single-use bags, nearly all of them plastic (Exhibit 1A).<sup>5</sup> In the Baltimore Harbor, three trash wheels have captured 673,218 plastic bags.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for trash on the Anacostia River and Baltimore Harbor, to which single-use plastic bags are a major contributor. This bill will help meet these targets by banning single-use plastic bags, and by curbing the use of paper bags by requiring stores to charge for them.

**Increased recycling of plastic bags cannot solve this problem.** Only about 5% of plastic bags are recycled, according to the EPA. They are not accepted in curbside recycling programs because they foul the machinery and are too contaminated to be marketed. Removing the plastic film from the recycling screens at the Prince George’s County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is costing the facility upward of \$124,800 per year, by one estimate (Exhibit 2). The bags that are not recycled are landfilled,

<sup>1</sup> Jambeck, Jenna *et al.* 2015. “Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean,” *Science* 347, no. 6223: 768-771.

<sup>2</sup> 5 Gyres Institute *et al.* Undated. “Better Alternatives Now: B.A.N. List 2.0”. Los Angeles, California.

<sup>3</sup> “The Problem of Marine Plastic Pollution”: <https://www.cleanwater.org/problem-marine-plastic-pollution>

<sup>4</sup> Maryland’s estimated 2020 population of 6.08 million x 305 bags/person.

<sup>5</sup> Maryland Sierra Club Shopper Survey, 2019. With the help of over 100 volunteers from the Sierra Club, Less Plastic Please, and Plastic-Free QAC, the carryout bag choices of more than 34,000 shoppers in 214 stores were observed in six counties (Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Queen Anne’s, Washington) and the City of Baltimore.

<sup>6</sup> [www.mrtrashwheel.com](http://www.mrtrashwheel.com)

incinerated, or littered. Even if the recycling rate could be improved, it would not prevent littered plastic bags from entering the environment.

**The best solution is to reduce our use of single-use plastic bags by banning them statewide and incentivizing the use of reusable bags.** Eight states and nearly 500 localities in the U.S. have enacted carryout bag laws.<sup>7</sup> Locally, this includes Montgomery County (with a 5-cent tax on plastic and paper carryout bags since 2012), the City of Baltimore (with a ban on plastic carryout bags and a 5-cent surcharge on paper bags to go into effect next year), Howard County (with a 5-cent tax on plastic bags to go into effect this fall), and the towns of Chestertown, Takoma Park, and Westminster, with plastic bag bans.

**Plastic bag ban and fee laws are effective in changing shopper behavior and reducing plastic pollution.** Studies have documented substantial reductions in disposable bag use and increases in reusable or no bag use associated with bag fee and bag ban policies (Exhibit 3). Montgomery County's 5-cent tax on plastic and paper carryout bags has cut the percentage of shoppers using single-use plastic bags by more than half, compared with adjacent Prince George's County without a fee (Exhibit 1B). Although plastic bags still account for nearly all of the disposable bags used in Montgomery County, nearly 60% of shoppers are opting for reusable bags or no bag at all, compared with only 12% in Prince George's County.

**This bill would reduce disposable bag use even further in Montgomery County and other jurisdictions by banning single-use plastic bags altogether and requiring that retailers charge at least 10 cents for paper and other reusable bags.** The Aldi and Lidl grocery chains closely approximate that model: they do not offer single-use plastic carryout bags and charge for all other carryout bags, including paper bags (7¢) and low-end reusable plastic bags (10¢). At these chains in Maryland, disposable bag use is dramatically reduced to 6% or less (Exhibit 1C); roughly half to three-quarters of their shoppers bring reusable bags and 28%-46% use no bag at all.

**Several features of this legislation are particularly important in maximizing its effectiveness.**

- **Requiring retailers to charge at least 10 cents for paper and other bags is a critical incentive for shoppers to favor reusable bags or no bag over single-use paper bags.** A straight ban on plastic bags without this incentive would dramatically increase use of "free" paper bags. For example, Westport, Connecticut's ban on single-use plastic bags with no charge for paper bags sent the share of shoppers using paper bags from nearly none to 45%, with only 2% of shoppers using no bag.<sup>8</sup> Paper bags are another single-use product with heavy upstream environmental impacts. They also cost retailers more to provide: paper carryout bags cost 6-10 cents, compared to 1-3 cents for plastic carryout bags. A large increase in the use of "free" paper bags by consumers could dramatically drive up retailers' overhead and prices. The objective of the bag policy is to have shoppers use reusable bags, not another single-use item with environmental impacts and that also is littered.<sup>9</sup>
- **Adoption of a minimum 4 mils thickness standard for defining a reusable bag is important to avoid a workaround of the policy by the plastics industry and retailers.** California, the first state to enact a statewide ban, used a minimum thickness of 2.25 mils to define reusable bags (among other

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<sup>7</sup> CA, OR, NY, VT, ME, CT, and DE have statewide bag laws; HI has a de facto statewide law because all counties have adopted ordinances. Source: [www.PlasticBagLaws.org](http://www.PlasticBagLaws.org)

<sup>8</sup> David Brown. 2010. "Retail Checkout Bag Surveys Report, Westport Connecticut," cited in Surfrider Foundation, 2019. *Plastic Bag Law Activist Toolkit*.

<sup>9</sup> For these reasons, the Surfrider Foundation's *Plastic Bag Law Activist Toolkit* discourages plastic bag bans that don't also involve some charge to the consumer for paper bags and other alternatives.

criteria). These relatively thin “reusable” bags, which must also be capable of 125 uses, are sold for 10 cents. However, they often are thrown away after only one or a few transactions.<sup>10</sup> The higher standard of a minimum 4 mils thickness for reusable bags has been adopted by statewide bills in Connecticut, Maine, and Oregon and is the standard in the recently-passed Baltimore bag bill.

**Finally, the requirement that retailers essentially sell paper carryout and reusable bags for at least 10 cents is a more transparent and fairer way of financing them.** There is no such thing as a “free” carryout bag. They are a significant expense for retailers, incorporated into their overhead and thus embedded in the price of merchandise.<sup>11</sup> Shoppers already are financing these costs in their grocery bills, whether they bring a reusable bag or not. In requiring retailers to sell these bags, only the purchaser pays; other shoppers are not footing the bill, it’s less costly for the retailer, and can lead to downward pressure on prices.<sup>12</sup> The bill removes a hidden cost, and this cost can be completely avoided by bringing one’s own bag.

In conclusion, single-use plastic carryout bags are used for a very short time and stay in the environment forever. They are particularly harmful to the marine environment. This bill will significantly reduce the overall use of plastic carryout bags, minimize a possible increase in use of paper bags, and result in markedly less plastic bag litter on land, in the streams, and in the oceans. It will improve the transparency of the cost of carryout bags, and shoppers can avoid buying a bag by bringing one. We urge you to act favorably on this important legislation.

Martha Ainsworth, Chair  
Chapter Zero Waste Committee  
Co-lead, Plastic Bag Ban Campaign  
Martha.Ainsworth@mdsierra.org

Sydney Jacobs, Chair  
Chapter Conservation Committee  
Co-lead, Plastic Bag Ban Campaign  
Sydney.Jacobs@mdsierra.org

Josh Tulkin,  
Chapter Director  
Maryland Sierra Club  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

### Exhibits

1. Results of the 2019 Maryland Sierra Club Shopper Survey
  - 1A. When single-use carryout bags are provided “free” at checkout, three-quarters or more of shoppers take them
  - 1B. Montgomery County’s bag fee incentivizes shoppers to use reusable bags or no bag
  - 1C. When thin plastic bags aren’t available and other bags cost, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all
2. The cost of plastic bag contamination at Prince George’s County’s single-stream recycling facility
3. The effectiveness of carryout bag bans and fees in the United States

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<sup>10</sup> Gardiner, Dustin. 2019. “California banned plastic bags. So why do stores keep using them?” *San Francisco Chronicle*. These same thin 10-cent “reusable” bags are also found in Maryland stores (Aldi, Lidl, Giant, Weis Markets, for example). They would be banned under SB 313, because they are less than 4 mils.

<sup>11</sup> Store owners who participated in research by Taylor and Villas-Boas (2015, “Bans versus Fees: Disposable Carryout Bag Policies and Bag Usage”) reported the cost of disposable bags as the fourth largest component of overhead, after electricity, payroll, and credit card fees.

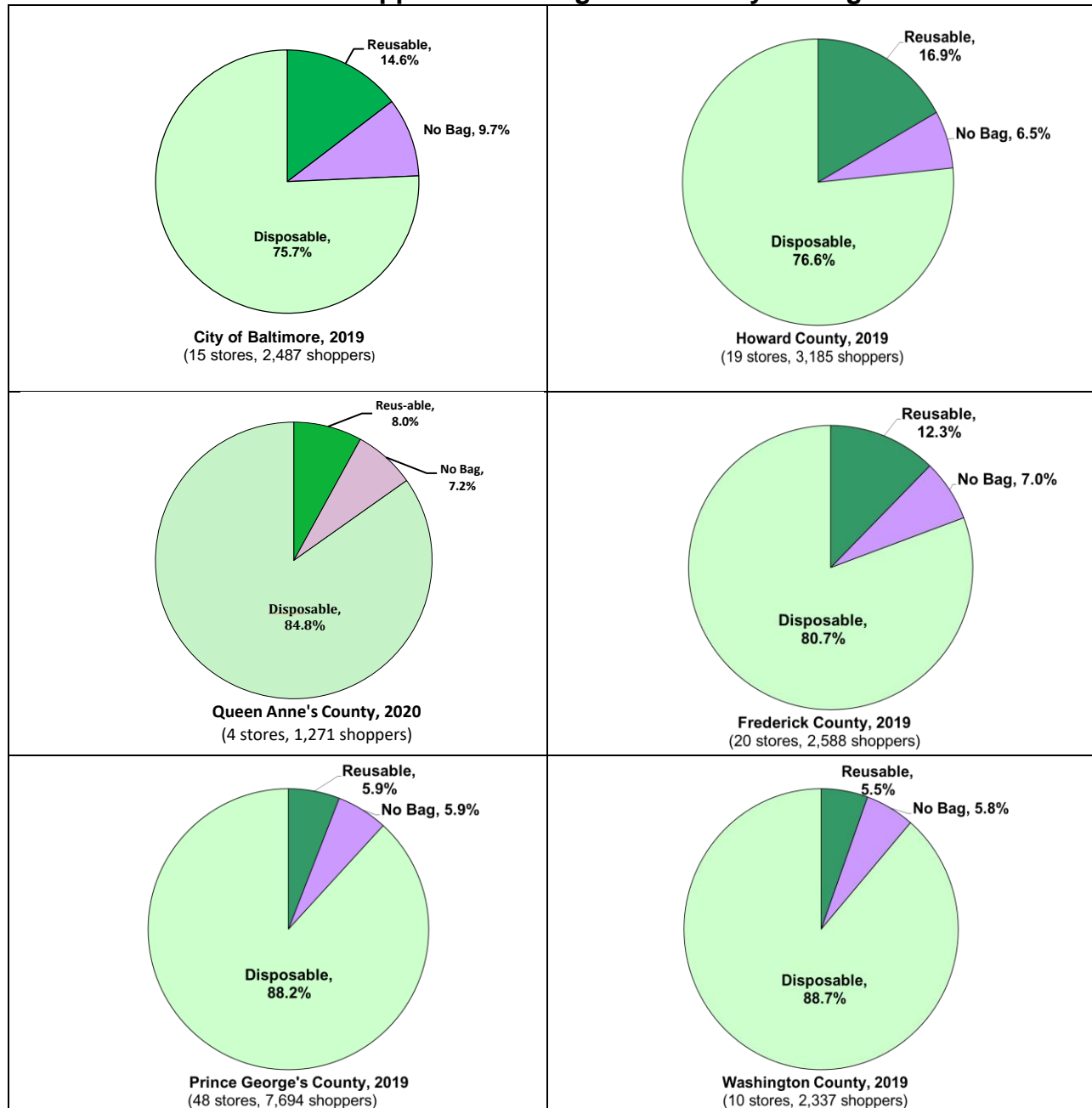
<sup>12</sup> Those who might try to characterize this arrangement as a tax would be wrong – a tax would be an additional expense, on top of the cost of the bag. There is no tax or fee in this bill.

## **Exhibit 1. Results of the 2019 Maryland Sierra Club Shopper Survey**

### **Exhibit 1A. When single-use (“disposable”) carryout bags are provided “free” at checkout, three-quarters or more of shoppers take them**

The Maryland Sierra Club Shopper Survey recorded the bag choices of shoppers exiting all of the stores in the major grocery store chains distributing free carryout bags in each jurisdiction. In the six jurisdictions (below) that did not have a bag fee or ban, 76%-89% of shoppers took exclusively free disposable bags. Among the shoppers who took disposable bags, more than 98% in all six jurisdictions took single-use plastic bags.

#### **Distribution of shoppers according to their carryout bag choices**

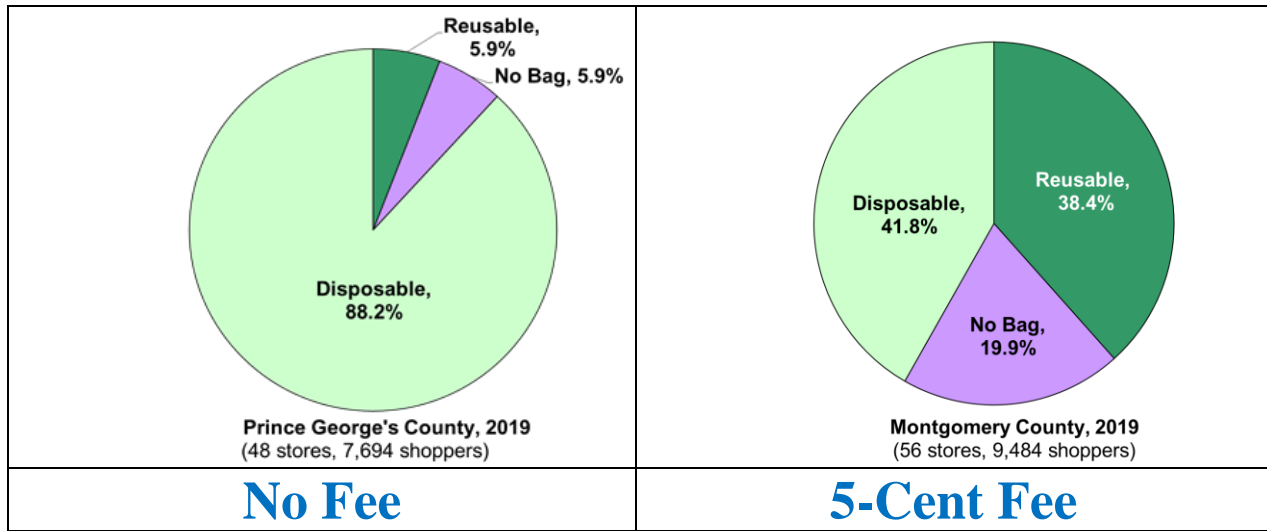


**Exhibit 1B. Montgomery County’s bag fee incentivizes shoppers to use reusable bags or no bag**

Montgomery County, Maryland, imposed a 5-cent tax on all plastic and paper carryout bags that went into effect in 2012. Seven years later, the results of the Maryland Sierra Club’s 2019 Shopper Survey show that there’s still a strong incentive for grocery shoppers to bring a reusable bag or not to use a bag at all, compared with neighboring Prince George’s County, where there is no bag legislation.

- The share of shoppers using single-use bags (nearly all of them plastic) is less than half (41.8%) that of neighboring Prince George’s County (88.2%) and the share with no bag (19.9%) is triple the share in Prince George’s (5.9%). The share of Montgomery shoppers with a reusable bag (38.4%) is six times higher than in Prince George’s (5.9%). Overall, 60% of grocery shoppers in Montgomery County are avoiding the fee by bringing a reusable bag or not taking a bag.<sup>13</sup>
- While the survey was not able to count the number of bags used, research elsewhere has found that the number of disposable bags used among those who take them also declines in the presence of a charge, fee, or tax.<sup>14</sup>

**Distribution of shoppers according to their carryout bag choices**



<sup>13</sup> This result is consistent with T. Homonoff’s research on the impact of Montgomery County’s bag tax, based on observing shoppers at stores before and after the imposition of the fee in 2012, and comparing it with stores in Washington, D.C. (which had imposed a similar bag tax two years earlier) and in Northern Virginia (with no bag tax). She estimated that the share of grocery shoppers who used at least one disposable bag dropped from 82% to 40%, while the share that brought a reusable bag rose from 16% to 49% immediately after the tax went into effect. In addition, those who continued using disposable bags used an average of one less bag per shopping trip. T.A. Homonoff. 2013. “Can Small Incentives Have Large Effects? The Impact of Taxes vs. Bonuses on Disposable Bag Use.” Princeton University Industrial Relations Section Working Paper #575.

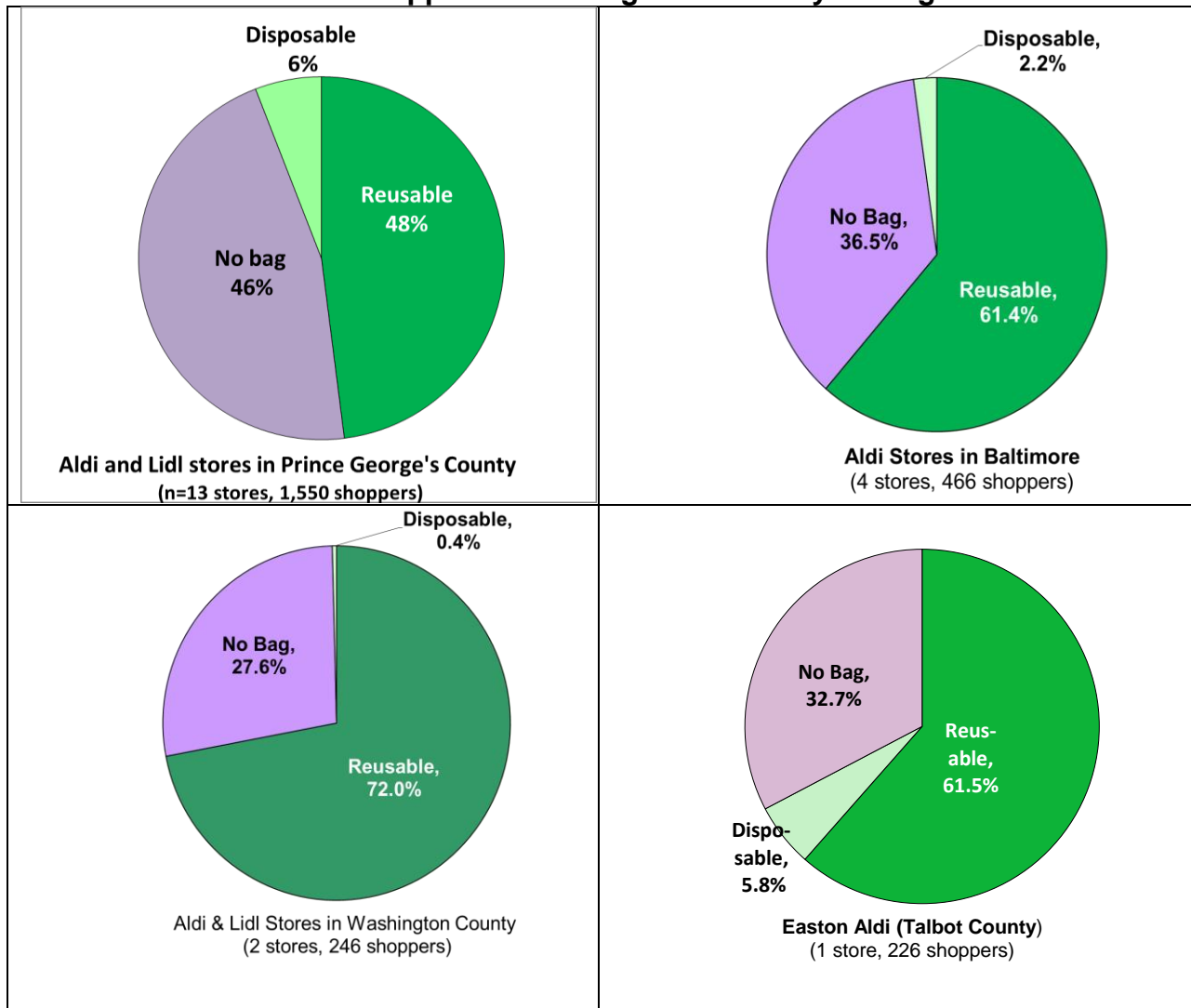
<sup>14</sup> Homonoff, T., L. Kao, D. Palmer, C. Soybolt. 2018. “Skipping the Bag: Assessing the impact of Chicago’s tax on disposable bags.” New York University|Wagner and Ideas42. September. Taylor, R. and S. B. Villas-Boas. 2015. “Bans versus Fees: Disposable Carryout Bag Policies and Bag Usage.” Selected paper prepared for presentation at the 2015 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association and Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, July 26-28.

**Exhibit 1C. When single-use plastic bags are unavailable and other bags must be purchased, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all**

While at present there are no jurisdictions in Maryland that have adopted a “hybrid” bag ban – one with both a plastic bag ban and a cost to the consumer for other bags – the Aldi and Lidl grocery chains have incorporated these principles into their business model. All carryout bags must be purchased and they do not offer single-use plastic carryout bags for sale. Paper carryout bags are sold for 7 cents, the cheapest reusable bag is plastic and sold for 10 cents. Other more durable reusable bags sell for 89 cents, 99 cents, or more.

The Maryland Sierra Club Shopper Survey monitored 20 stores in the Aldi and Lidl chains and found very high levels of reusable bag use (48%-72%), as well as use of no bag (28%-46%). Only 6% or fewer shoppers presented with a disposable bag, and almost all were paper.

**Distribution of shoppers according to their carryout bag choices**





**Exhibit 2. The cost of plastic bag contamination at Prince George’s County’s single-stream recycling facility**

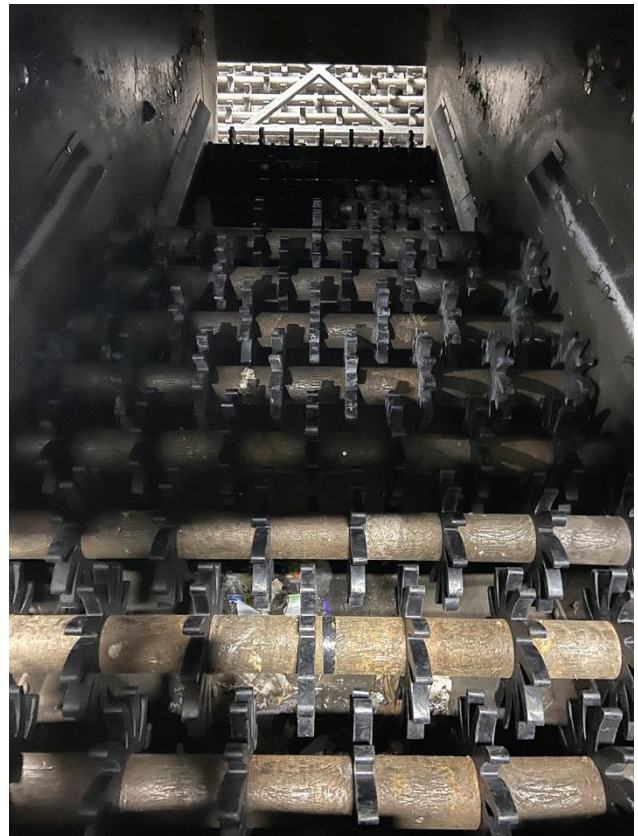
The Prince George’s County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Capitol Heights, Maryland, no longer attempts to recycle plastic bags because of their costly impact on the sorting machinery and the lack of a market for the highly contaminated product collected in the single-stream process. However, residents continue to put plastic bags in their curbside bins, and plastic bags and film continue to foul the equipment. The plastic bags that are captured at the MRF are landfilled.

How much is this costing Prince George’s County? Every day after the last shift, three workers spend 8 hours each cleaning plastic film from the sorting screens. The photos below show the impact on the sorting equipment as of the end of a shift (left) and the equipment after it is cleaned (right). At \$20/hour, five days a week, 52 weeks per year, the cost to the facility of cleaning plastic bags from the equipment is at least \$124,800 annually because of plastic bag and film contamination.

**Plastic film fouling at the end of the day**



**The screens after cleaning**



### **Exhibit 3. The effectiveness of selected carryout bag bans and fees in the US**

- In **Chicago, Illinois**, following the imposition of a 7-cent bag tax in February 2017, the share of shoppers using any disposable bag dropped from 82% to 54%, reusable bag use more than doubled, from 13% to 28.5%, and the likelihood of using no bag rose from 8% to 21%. The number of disposable bags used per trip dropped from 2.3 to 1.8.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2012, **Aspen, Colorado**, banned single-use plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and required the stores to charge 20 cents for single-use paper bags. Five years later, 40% of shoppers were using reusable bags, 45% were carrying out their merchandise without a bag, and 15% purchased the 20-cent paper bags. In contrast, at a grocery store in nearby El Jebel outside the city limits and with no bag policy, only 16% of shoppers used reusable bags, 7.5% exited with unbagged groceries, and a whopping 76.5% had single-use bags.<sup>16</sup>
- In a pilot at grocery stores in **Corning and Ithaca, New York**, the Wegmans chain banned plastic single-use bags and charged 5 cents for paper bags. While about 20% of shoppers at all Wegmans stores use reusable bags, at the pilot stores with a ban/fee structure only 20% used single-use bags.<sup>17</sup>
- In **San Jose, California**, a ban on thin plastic bags and a 10-cent fee on paper bags increased shoppers' reliance on reusable bags from 3% to 46%, and the no-bag share from 13% to 43%.<sup>18</sup> Plastic bags in waterways declined by 76% and plastic bag pollution in storm drains declined by 69%.

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<sup>15</sup> Homonoff, T., L. Kao, D. Palmer, C. Soybolt. 2018. "Skipping the Bag: Assessing the impact of Chicago's tax on disposable bags." New York University|Wagner and Ideas42. September.

<sup>16</sup> Armstrong, A., and E. O'Connell Chapman. 2017. "City of Aspen Single Use Bag Study." *Journal of Sustainability Education* 16, December.

<sup>17</sup> "Wegmans Announces Date for Elimination of Plastic Bags in All New York State Stores." Press release, Rochester, NY, January 6, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/environment/illegal-dumping-litter/bring-your-own-bag-ordinance>

# **KarenJohnson\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Johnson, Karen

Position: FAV

5515 Smallwood Ct,  
Clarksville, MD 21029

**Testimony on SB 313**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**February 17, 2020**

Dear Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee,

I totally support, and hope you will support, as well, the plastic and Packaging Reduction Act. This is vitally important. There are so many ways we can each do our part to reduce plastic pollution and learning to carry re-usable bags is one of the easiest things we can do, with tremendous positive ecological benefits. Untold millions of plastic bags are mindlessly used every single day, often for just a few minutes before being thrown into the trash for an endless presence in our soils and waterways. Paper bags present additional concerns, as outlined below. In countries and individual stores where bags are not provided...people quickly adapt. Think about Costco for example! No bags? No problem! People figure it out. And the statistics are clear. The fewer plastic bags dispensed in stores...the fewer show up in the environment. It's so easy. Take this step and encourage everyone in the political process to do the same. Every minute counts. Every plastic bag NOT used, is one less bag in the ocean. Every paper bag NOT used, leads to one more tree doing it's good work of protecting the air and soil.

We are in a plastic pollution crisis. Every minute of every day a garbage truck of plastic is dumped into our oceans. If we carry on as usual, this is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050. By 2050, this could mean there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. The system needs to change.

The Plastic and Packaging Act will help reduce plastic pollution, plastic's harmful side effects and, as importantly, this bill will also help change our "throwaway" mentality.

2 million single-use plastic bags are consumed every minute. These bags often wind up in waterways and our landscape, degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits. These bags have a massive carbon footprint.

Beginning on New Year's Day, Mom's Organic Market, with ten Maryland locations, stopped accepting plastic bags for recycling. Mom's reluctantly told its customers that the material was being incinerated as waste to energy, and was therefore misleading to customers to offer plastic bag recycling.

Switching to paper is not the answer. The carbon footprint of paper bags is even bigger. Paper production uses trees that could instead be absorbing carbon dioxide, releases more greenhouse gases, takes 3 times the amount of water, and results in 50 times more water pollutants. We can bring our own bags.

But there are people who need more than intrinsic environmental values to remember their bags. They need a nudge. This bill will be that nudge.

This type of legislation has proven successful around the world, but we do not need to look further than our own backyard to prove the point. Montgomery County, MD: A 5 cent fee on paper and single-use plastic bags reduced single-use bag use by 42 percentage points (from 82% to 40%). Washington, DC: City officials say plastic bag usage has plummeted 50 to 70 percent since the fee took effect in 2009 and in 2017, more than three-quarters of city businesses complied with the law – the largest proportion so far.

Let Maryland be the leadership others will follow.

I am asking for a favorable report on SB 313 The Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act.

Karen Johnson L.Ac, RN

(410) 381-4595

[ColumbiaFamilyAcupuncture.com](http://ColumbiaFamilyAcupuncture.com)

# **BaltimoreBeyondPlastic\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Merry, Joanna

Position: FAV



## ***Baltimore Beyond Plastic***

***11 E. Mount Royal Avenue,  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baltimore, 21202  
bmorebeyondplastic.org***

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 313 Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act Finance Committee February 20, 2020**

Chairwoman Kelley, Co-chair Feldman & Members of the Committee:

**Baltimore Beyond Plastic strongly supports SB313 as a necessary step in addressing our changing climate and the need for a broad systemic shift to address the destruction of our single use culture.**

**#1- A ban on plastic bags when paired with an imposed minimum price on reusable bags has been proven effective in changing the behavior of consumers.** California, being the first state to ban plastic bags in 2016, has been wildly successful with their waste reduction. CalRecycle, the agency tasked with managing and enforcing California's laws related to waste management recently released a report showing the results of a survey among thousands of stores and grocers. The study found that in the six months after the bag ban went into effect, in 86% of transactions, customers brought their own bag and didn't purchase a paper or reusable bag. This study thoroughly proves that putting a ban on plastic bags, and a price on paper bags, is a highly effective solution to solve a portion of our states detrimental plastic usage.

**#2- Plastics use and production fuels climate change, negatively impacts our health, and harms our environment.** Fossil fuels are the basis of plastic production. Between production and disposal of plastics, archaic harmful industries are supported. These industries prioritize wealth over health. Climate change is terrifying, especially to our generation and it impacts our most vulnerable populations the hardest. As a coastal state with areas of concentrated poverty, Maryland is at high risk for the fury that is our changing climate. If we want to really work towards slowing down climate change, it is your responsibility to take these critical steps towards disbanding our single use culture.

**#3- We as youth have spoken. We are not disposable.** Our generation is standing up across the planet to make our voice heard in the issue we face with the destruction caused by our wasteful single-use culture. The threat of inaction against climate change is real and our generation is uncertain that our future is promised. Millions of youth across the globe are calling on our elected leaders to act on the facts and work across party lines to work toward our secure future. We accept the challenge of rethinking our convenience culture that we were born into, realizing this legislation will have the longest impact on us. Some of us have been taught in our school groups to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Refuse". It is time to refuse the bag, reduce our impact, and to repair our planet.



## ***Baltimore Beyond Plastic***

***11 E. Mount Royal Avenue,  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baltimore, 21202  
bmorebeyondplastic.org***

For these important reasons and many more that will be highlighted in your other supportive testimony, we strongly urge the Committee to vote in favor of SB313.

Thank you for your time, your service and your consideration,

### **Baltimore Beyond Plastic**

Maya Wiekert, Sophomore at The Baltimore City College  
Nicholas Kophengnavong, Senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Katelynn Johnson, Senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Juno Adekunle-Owens, Junior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Rachel Fink, Senior at The Baltimore City College  
Elizabeth Sacktor, Senior at Baltimore School for the Arts  
Dija Thompson, Sophomore at The Baltimore City College  
Jackie Nuatez, The Last Plastic Straw  
Patricia Mott, Resident  
Cheryl Bryant, Patterson Park Neighborhood Association  
Claire Lyons, Trash Free Maryland  
Caroline Mayner, Wyndhurst Improvement Association  
Tina Lazar, Woodhome ELE  
Marian Denning, Teacher at Harlem Park Elementary School  
Cynthia Kicklighter, Resident  
Chad Pfrommer, Resident  
Ryan Ariosa, Teacher at Commodore John Rodgers

Youth Environmental Network, Baltimore City

Students of Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School Green Team  
Students of Furley Elementary School Green Team  
Students of Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School Green Team  
Students of Augusta Fells Savage Institute for Visual Arts High School Green Team  
Students of Reginald F. Lewis High School Green Team



# **WaterkeepersChesapeake\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Nicholas, Betsy

Position: FAV

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 313 –Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act – (Senator Augustine)

February 20, 2020

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 313 – the ‘Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act’ – on behalf of Waterkeepers Chesapeake. Waterkeepers Chesapeake is a coalition of seventeen Waterkeepers, Riverkeepers, and Coastkeepers working to make the waters of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays swimmable and fishable. Maryland Waterkeepers have an interest ensuring healthy and thriving aquatic habitats across the state.

Senate Bill 313 seeks to remove single use plastic bags commonly used by retailers and bags that are marketed as “compostable” but do not actually deteriorate in the environment naturally. As much as 80 percent of trash in the oceans comes from sources on land, and up to 60 percent of this trash is plastic. A plastic bag is used for an average of 12 minutes, but can persist in our environment, harm wildlife, and pollute our waterways for 500 years.<sup>1</sup> Single-use bags do not break down completely but instead become microplastics that absorb toxins and further compound the problem.<sup>2</sup>

The Chesapeake Bay and all of Maryland’s waterways are not immune to this pollution.<sup>3</sup> A 2014 study conducted by the University of Maryland found microplastics in four estuary rivers of the Chesapeake Bay.<sup>4</sup> Additional research conducted at the University of Maryland has shown that the increased presence of plastic in the Chesapeake Bay can cause respiratory stress in Bay

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<sup>1</sup> 10 Facts About Single-Use Plastic Bags, *Center for Biological Diversity*, [https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population\\_and\\_sustainability/sustainability/plastic\\_bag\\_facts.html](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/plastic_bag_facts.html).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Jeff Corbin, *A Plastic Problem in the Chesapeake Bay*, The EPA Blog (Nov. 24, 2014) <https://blog.epa.gov/2014/11/24/a-plastic-problem-in-the-chesapeake/>.

<sup>4</sup> Lance T. Yonkos, Elizabeth A. Freidel, et. al., *Microplastics in Four Estuarine Rivers in the Chesapeake Bay, USA*, *Environmental Science & Technology* (Nov. 12, 2014) <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es5036317>.

oyster species.<sup>5</sup> Out of the water, more than 60% of all seabirds have ingested plastic and that number is expected to rise to 99% in the next 30 years.<sup>6</sup>

The Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act represents a step in the right direction as it encourages waste reduction and positive consumer behavior change. Cities and states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and nationally that have passed similar legislation have witnessed positive results. Ten years ago, the District of Columbia passed a similar measure. Cleanup efforts along the Potomac River have recorded a 72 percent reduction in plastic bags being pulled from the waterway since then.<sup>7</sup>

Waterkeepers Chesapeake is a strong proponent of measures that safeguard our waterways, ensure aquatic habitat health, and provide a path for the resurgence of the Chesapeake Bay. For these reasons, the undersigned Waterkeepers, Riverkeepers and Coastkeepers urge the Committee to adopt a favorable report on Senate Bill 313.

Sincerely,

**Betsy Nicholas**

Executive Director

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

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<sup>5</sup> Whitney Pipkin, *Microplastics are everywhere, but how do they harm the Bay?*, MarylandReporter <https://marylandreporter.com/2019/06/19/microplastics-are-everywhere-but-how-do-they-harm-the-bay/>.

<sup>6</sup> Caitlyn Johnstone, *What threats do microplastics pose?*, Chesapeake Bay Program (Dec. 12, 2019) [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/small\\_plastics\\_are\\_a\\_big\\_problem](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/small_plastics_are_a_big_problem).

<sup>7</sup> Donna Morelli, *Fees and bans reduce plastic pollution, change behavior*, Bay Journal (March 7, 2019) [https://www.bayjournal.com/article/fees\\_and\\_bans\\_reduce\\_plastic\\_pollution\\_change\\_behavior](https://www.bayjournal.com/article/fees_and_bans_reduce_plastic_pollution_change_behavior).

# **SB313\_FAV\_SusanOlsen**

Uploaded by: Olsen, Susan

Position: FAV

**Susan A. Olsen, M.A., M.Ed.**

**1533 Global Circle**

**Cambridge, MD 21613**

**410-476-7091**

**[susanolsen5887@gmail.com](mailto:susanolsen5887@gmail.com)**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB313**

**February 20, 2020\* Senate Finance Committee**

*Chairwoman Delores Kelley & Members of the Committee:*

I know that you do not often hear from people who live on the Eastern Shore. Therefore, I feel a tremendous urgency to talk to you about this bill.

We have many environmental groups up and down the Shore: *Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth*, the *Chesapeake Bay Foundation*, the *Sierra Club of the Lower Eastern Shore* (representing Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties), *Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET)*, *Shore Rivers*, *Assateague Coastal Trust*, *Surfriders*, the *Land Conservancy*, and more. Each of these groups has hundreds of members. In addition, there are a growing number of progressive groups which share the same environmental concerns.

Most of these groups have regularly scheduled litter clean-up days during the year. Our groups gather their members together, usually on a Saturday, to pick up litter on our beaches and waterways. Since I live in Cambridge, I help my friends at Sailwinds Park.

A great deal of this litter consists of plastic bags. Unfortunately, many plastic bags blow away on unreachable surfaces or in the water.

Why do we do this? There are several reasons. We know that littered plastic bags end up in our waterways and our precious Chesapeake Bay. There they degrade into microplastics which absorb toxic chemicals. Our fish and crabs then eat the particles which, of course, poisons them. We have an extraordinarily high cancer rate on the Eastern Shore, and I have no doubt that plastics being ingested by the fish and crabs we eat often in our area of the state contribute to this.

Plastic bags are being ingested by our marine life, suffocating and killing them. Turtles are particularly susceptible to plastic bags because they look like jellyfish. As more and more of these animals wash up on shore or float around in the ocean, our tourism industry is going to suffer.

It is hard for me to understand why people think that using reusable bags at the store is such a burden. I have been using reusable bags since the 1970s. Reusable bags do not have to be anything fancy. Any old bag works just fine. Most of us have canvas or cotton bags of some sort hanging around. Some people even use cardboard boxes.

It is time that all of us recognize that we are in a Climate Crisis. I tend to compare this to the necessary lifestyle changes that were made during World War II. Women went to work en masse; many of them did work that men traditionally had done. Americans gave up certain items and other things were completely unavailable. All Americans were united behind the war effort. I believe it is time our country came together in this fashion again.

There is a growing concern on my side of the Bay Bridge that our legislators are not considering our public health and the deterioration of our environment when they vote on environmental legislation such as this plastic bag ban.

Our Eastern Shore delegates usually vote against this type of legislation, saying that their only concern is small business; however, this bill will only help small business owners. It will not help our tourism industry to have a lot of dead animals drifting onto our beaches. It will not help our watermen either. The crab industry reported record losses last year – at least in Cambridge.

Please look at the big picture this time. Think about a decade from now. Most Americans use at least 300 plastic bags annually. Less than 5% are recycled. In fact, plastic bags often jam recycling machines at great cost to business owners.

Our Cambridge landfill is just about full. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. Each bag has a life expectancy of up to 1,000 years. In a landfill without oxygen, they will probably never degrade. Our town cannot afford to build a new landfill.

What will our Eastern Shore look like if we do not pass this bill? Where will we put the garbage?

I am 67 years old, and I have several medical issues that come with aging. I have less quality time every day. Now that I am retired, I do not want to spend my Saturdays picking up plastic bags and other garbage in our public areas.

I would truly appreciate it if you would vote for this necessary piece of legislation.

# **Chispa Maryland\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Palencio-Calvo, Ramon

Position: FAV





MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 20, 2020

**SUPPORT – SB313 Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

**Board of Directors**

Ed Hatcher, *Chair*

Maris St. Cyr, *Vice Chair*

Mike Davis, *Treasurer*

The Hon. Virginia Claggett

Bob Fleshner

Verna Harrison Pelrine

Melanie Hartwig-Davis

Lynn Heller

Bonnie Norman

Candace Dodson Reed

Kitty Thomas

Kim Coble  
*Executive Director*

30C West Street.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[www.mdlcv.org](http://www.mdlcv.org)

Dear Madame Chairwoman Kelley and members of the Committee:

My name is María Guardado and I am a Community Organizer with Chispa Maryland, the Latino outreach program of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. I work and live with my family in Langley park, Prince George's County. Langley Park is a community where upwards of 80% of residents are Latino. And I would like to share with you some of the things that I have learned working in this community and other Latino communities in Maryland.

Trash is one of the constant concerns in our community. This is a tangible problem in our neighborhoods, and it is also one of the indicators of a neighborhood that is neglected and unsafe. Every year the community gets together to do two community cleanups where entire families participate. We collect garbage from our parks, roadsides, bus stops, and our streets. And one of the items we find the most, year after year, are plastic bags.

Plastic bags are wasteful and pollute rivers and parks where we go with to play soccer, celebrate birthdays, or just to have a good time with our families. Plastic bags are also very harmful to the environment. When it rains, all those plastic bags that litter our streets end up in our rivers, where they break into small pieces and fish, birds, and other animals eat them thinking it is food.

I urge you to ban plastic bags and avoid all the damage they do in our community and in many other communities in Maryland. Plastic bags stray away from our tradition of using reusable shopping bags. We grew up without plastic bags. Since we were little, we always went shopping with our own cloth bags or shopping cart. If we grew up without using plastic bags, we can also live without plastic bags now.

This bill gives the option to pay for a bag paper bag or not. Currently, all of us as consumers pay for plastic bags regardless of whether we use them or not. Single-use bags are not free and continuing to charge people who want to use a reusable bag is not right.

We are a resourceful community that values the future of our families, and banning plastic bags will benefit our community, the environment and our families.

For these reasons I urge a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you.

Maria Guardado

# **Maryland LCV\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Palencio-Calvo, Ramon

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 20, 2020

**Board of Directors**

Ed Hatcher, *Chair*

Maris St. Cyr, *Vice Chair*

Mike Davis, *Treasurer*

The Hon. Virginia Clagett

Bob Fleshner

Verna Harrison Pelrine

Melanie Hartwig-Davis

Lynn Heller

Bonnie Norman

Candace Dodson Reed

Kitty Thomas

Kim Coble  
*Executive Director*

30C West Street.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[www.mdlcv.org](http://www.mdlcv.org)

**SUPPORT SB313: Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

Dear Madame Chairwoman Kelley and members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly urges your support of SB313 Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, and we thank Senator Augustine for his leadership on this issue. SB313 and its House cross-file are priorities of Maryland LCV and of the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment (CCE), a table of 30 organizations working on statewide environmental policy.

Last year, the General Assembly took an important step in becoming the first state in the nation to pass a statewide Styrofoam ban, in order to protect the health of our waterways and in recognition of the climate cost of production and destruction of expanded polystyrene foam. We applaud these committees for their leadership, which has inspired similar action states across the country. For many of the same reasons, the environmental community is united in asking for a ban on plastic bags and bill at the point of sale with a minimum cost of 10c on paper bags.

Even in a robust recycling market, plastic bags are virtually unrecyclable, and end up buried in landfills, burned in incinerators, or littering our neighborhoods and clogging our waterways. Additionally, 8% of the world's oil production is used to making plastics, either in the materials or the energy used to manufacture it. This number is only expected to rise. It is vitally important that we take every possible measure to reduce our climate pollution in order to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. Eliminating plastic bags is an important measure to this end. While paper bags have a different environmental impact, simply replacing one kind of pollution with another does not solve the problem, and we know that requiring consumers to pay for their bags at check-out is the essential to the policy's success, especially in already disadvantaged communities where the effects of litter and pollution are the greatest..

We recognize the concerns of our friends and partners with regards to the potential effects to low-income communities and look forward to working with them and with the committee in the workgroup mandated by this bill to find a solution that ensures that already disadvantaged communities do not bear a financial burden as a result of this policy.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly urges a favorable report on this priority bill.

Thank you.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

# **STAC\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Peterson, Matt

Position: FAV



4FRONT

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION FOR CHANGE

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Finance Committee

February 20, 2020

## SUPPORT

Our names are Allie Cohen, Ella Friner, Hannah Getz, Jenna Lubliner, Sophie Polakoff, and Wyatt Sherman and we're members of a group called STAC, which stands for Students Taking Action for a Change. Housed by 4Front, Baltimore's hub for Jewish teen programming, STAC is a political advocacy program for Jewish teens in the greater Baltimore area. It allows teens like ourselves to gain a better understanding of the political process and gain real life advocacy experience all through a Jewish lens.

**We are writing to express our support of Senate Bill 313 –The Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, a piece of legislature that would ban retailers from distributing plastic bags. Additionally, it would require stores to charge 10 cents for paper bags being used by customers.**

In Maryland, people carelessly throw away tons of plastic every day. Since plastic bags are virtually non-recyclable and non-biodegradable, they wind up littering the environment and can be consumed by harmless animals. Consequently, plastic grocery bags are the seventh most common items collected from the Ocean's Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, resulting in the death of over 100,000 marine animals. Furthermore, plastics contain toxic chemicals, such as carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrine disruptors. These harmful chemicals kill wildlife and are even ingested by people. In fact, it is estimated that people consume a credit card worth of plastic every week. Moreover, the plastic contributes to the global climate crisis. About 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels. In addition, The World Economic Forum predicts that plastic production will double within the next 20 years. As we have stated, plastic is not only affecting animals and humans, but also the environment.

One reason that we care about this issue is because as young Jewish adults, we're taught not to waste the resources that God gave us. As stated in Genesis, 2:15, we are taught that human beings are placed on earth to protect and care for the natural world. Due to the non-stop usage of plastic bags, we are betraying God by not following this teaching. As Jews, we believe it's our job to keep the world as natural as possible. If we continue with this constant use of plastic bags, eventually we will have a harder time to reverse what harm has already happened to our planet.

Personally, every time our family's go to the grocery store, we bring our own reusable bags. By doing so, we're making a small, trivial change in our lives to make a greater change on the world. While paper bags leave less of a mark on the environment, we believe that the 10-cent charge for paper will lead to more people bringing their own reusable bags to the store.

As young people in this world who care about the environment, we are asking that you support Senate Bill 313, as it will lead our world to a cleaner, healthier environment. The longer we wait to make these changes, the worse these problems get. Thus, changes need to be made immediately, starting with the passage of Senate Bill 313.

# **ThomasPotyraj\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Potyraj, Thomas

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 313**  
**February 20, 2020 \* Finance Committee**

Chairmen Kelley and Members of the Committee:

I am in favor of SB313. I wasn't planning to submit a testimony, but something happened to me last week that made me think that I should. *I went to the hardware store.* I went to a particular one, one of the big ones, because I knew that they accepted plastic bags for recycling. When I arrived, I noticed that the recycle bin had a little hole, so I had to take my bags a few at a time and insert them into the small opening. When I had finished, I turned around and saw a store employee behind me. She was upset. I asked if I had done anything wrong. She replied "only store bags should go in there... now I have to clean them out!" Well, I have to admit that there were only a few of the store's bags, and not all of them were carry-out bags. I offered to help get my bags out of the bin, but by that time she had pulled a large plastic bag fresh off of the roll, and started to put my bags into it. I asked her where the bags were going, and she said "now they are going to the dumpster". I felt bad because not only were my bags going into the dumpster, but so was the big bag that was used to collect them.

I think that people use a lot of plastic bags because they think that they are going to be recycled. However, I'm beginning to wonder if, despite the best of intentions, this is not always the case. Recycling is a good thing, but it is only part of the solution. *People need to change their behavior and use less bags.* SB313 is a good bill because it will help us do that. I ask for a favorable report on SB313.

Thomas Potyraj  
116 Glenrae Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228



# **SB 313 testimony Bommasamudram Raghu**

Uploaded by: Raghu, Bommasamudram

Position: FAV

701 W. 37th Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21211

**Testimony on SB 313**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**February 15, 2020**

Dear Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee,

As you are aware, we are in a plastic pollution crisis. Every minute of every day a garbage truck worth plastic enters our waterways. It is time to address this issue by supporting bill SB313 Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act (PPRA).

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0209?ys=2020RS>

If we carry on as usual, this is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050. By 2050, this could mean there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. The system needs to change.

2 million single-use plastic bags are consumed every minute. These bags often wind up in waterways and our landscape, degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits. These bags have a massive carbon footprint.

Beginning on New Year's Day, Mom's Organic Market, with ten Maryland locations, stopped accepting plastic bags for recycling. Mom's reluctantly told its customers that the material was being incinerated as waste to energy, and was therefore misleading to customers to offer plastic bag recycling.

Switching to paper is not the answer. The carbon footprint of paper bags is even bigger. Paper production uses trees that could instead be absorbing carbon dioxide, releases more greenhouse gases, takes 3 times the amount of water, and results in 50 times more water pollutants. We can bring our own bags.

But there are people who need more than intrinsic environmental values to remember their bags. They need a nudge. This bill is that nudge.

This type of legislation has proven successful around the world, but we do not need to look further than our own backyard to prove the point.

Montgomery County, MD: A 5 cent fee on paper and single-use plastic bags reduced single-use bag use by 42 percentage points (from 82% to 40%). Washington, DC: City officials say plastic bag usage has plummeted 50 to 70 percent since the fee took effect

in 2009 and in 2017, more than three-quarters of city businesses complied with the law – the largest proportion so far.

I am asking for a favorable report on SB313 The Plastic and Packaging Reduction Act.

Bommasamudram Raghu

[rag27@gmail.com](mailto:rag27@gmail.com)

Resources:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/every-minute-one-garbage-truck-of-plastic-is-dumped-into-our-oceans/>

[https://scaan.net/docs/ScAAN\\_Bags\\_report.pdf](https://scaan.net/docs/ScAAN_Bags_report.pdf)

# **Trash Free Maryland\_FAV\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: Robinson, Shane

Position: FAV



**Bill:** SB 313

**Date:** February 20, 2020

**Position:** Support

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## **SB 313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and members of the Finance Committee:

Trash Free Maryland enthusiastically supports SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act. This bill bans plastic bags at the point of sale, with some exceptions, and establishes a 10 cent price floor on paper bags. It would also establish a work group to tackle the issue of single use plastics and other single use products in the State of Maryland. Trash Free Maryland commends Senator Augustine for introducing this much needed legislation.

**The problem:** Marylanders are using close to two billion plastic bags per year, and they have become prevalent in Maryland's waterways, along its roads, in its trees, and in its neighborhoods. Very few plastic bags get recycled -- less than 9% of plastics, and only 5% of plastic bags, are recycled in the United States according to the EPA. Instead, they end up in landfills, incinerators, or are discarded and blown into the environment. In addition to being unsightly, plastic bags harm aquatic wildlife and sea birds which ingest them either as whole bags or in toxic pieces as they degrade. Microplastics have been found in many places such as tap and bottled water, table salt, and beer. By 2050 it is estimated that there will be more plastic in the world's oceans than there are fish by weight.

**The solution:** One of the most common forms of plastic pollution in Maryland is single use plastic bags. We can stop this by using readily available alternatives such as reusable bags. The best way to do this is to ban single use plastic bags at the point of sale and implement a 10 cent price floor on paper bags. Over 500 jurisdiction across the United States have implemented plastic bag reduction laws and have seen their use drop dramatically.

**Behavior change and the 10 cent price floor on paper:** If we ban plastic bags but don't include a price floor on paper, customers will simply switch from plastic bags to paper bags, thereby creating a different set of environmental problems. Increased paper bag use, despite the recyclability of these bags, leads to deforestation, an increased carbon footprint, and more pollution from the paper industry.

**We urge a favorable report on SB 313.** Thank you.

Contact:

Shane Robinson, Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland

[shane@trashfreemaryland.org](mailto:shane@trashfreemaryland.org)

240-429-2330

**IPC\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Rose, Jodi

Position: FAV



Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters

PO Box 6791  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**TESTIMONY ON SB 313**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**February 20, 2020**  
**Finance Committee**

Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee:

We support the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (SB 313) which will ban the point-of-sale hand-out of plastic bags in our state.

First of all, we want to thank the General Assembly for its leadership in reducing plastic pollution through a ban on foam food packaging last year. We are confident in your leadership in supporting a bag ban that is good for the planet and good for all Marylanders.

**Faith leaders are increasingly concerned about the throw-away culture of our society.**

- The culture that idolizes economic gain at the expense of the poor, the environment, and future generations.
- The culture that seems to have forgotten that there's something seriously wrong with extracting fossil fuels that have been in the ground for millions of years in order to produce a plastic bag that will be used once and thrown away.
- The culture that expects jurisdictions to pay to remove unsightly trash from parkways, rivers, and tree branches, simply because we feel it is inconvenient to be asked to stop using plastic bags. The economic harm caused to jurisdictions for having to clean up these shared spaces takes away from the economic good our jurisdictions could be investing in instead.

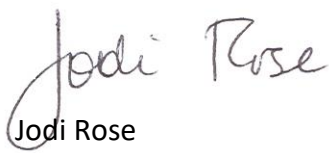
In congregations operating on the margins of society, the most commonly reported environmental problem they struggle with is oppressive trash in their neighborhoods and local streams. This plastic waste is what our marginalized neighbors see when they go out for a walk.

**There are many complex pollution problems in Maryland, and this is one solution in which everyone can participate.** A ban on plastic bags is easy to understand and applies to everyone without bias.

**With that being said, we have concerns with how this bill could affect the poor when they go to purchase food.** Our dedication to environmental healing is rooted in deep love and respect for all people. While doing the *right* thing, like choosing not to use cheaply-made plastic bags, costs more, it would be tone-deaf for us to ignore the realities that impoverished Marylanders face. Our concerns with this bill are as follows:

- Financial burdens on low-income consumers are not to be minimalized and real solutions to this problem are needed. However, a WIC/SNAP exemption is mostly likely not the answer because they are not the only consumers who may struggle to purchase paper bags. There are many poor who still do not qualify for WIC/SNAP. We also do not want to create a situation in which entrepreneurial retailers in low-income regions cannot afford to make paper bags available to their customers.
- Historically – and we are *all* to blame for this – we have failed to robustly educate low-income schools and communities on the importance of changing behaviors and moving away from the throw-away culture. This bill fails to create a pathway for energizing community engagement and education in the process of changing behavior, either through community education funding or municipal funding to support educational programming in low-income regions.
- In the spirit of changing behavior, we would encourage further exploration of a phased-in approach in low-income regions to meet everyone where they are at and provide low-income consumers more time to make personal changes in their habits and behaviors regarding one-time bag usage.
- We encourage stronger language in the bill to require that the study-group generate **solutions** to concerns about the impact on low-income consumers. **We owe it to ourselves and future generations to come up with real solutions.** My organization stands ready to assist with that thinking process and to draw in community leaders to ensure we are hearing as many perspectives as possible. True leadership will be achieved when the most diverse thought leaders support the solutions.

We must live in harmony with all of Creation around us, and this legislation encourages us to change our behavior to more closely match what we know in our heart is the right way to live. By reducing access to plastic bags, we will begin to break ourselves of this damaging **addiction to convenience**. IPC envisions a time when using reusable bags will be as second-nature as putting on your seat belt, and when today's throw-away culture is a thing of the past.



Jodi Rose  
Executive Director



# **Oceana\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Ross, Jacob

Position: FAV

**Testimony of Jacob Ross**  
**Field Campaigns Fellow, Oceana**  
**To the Maryland Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 20, 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act. As the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation, Oceana fits a unique niche. We work to advance science-based policies at the federal, state, and local level that will restore the ocean's abundance and biodiversity. We submit this testimony to share our strong support for SB 313 and to urge you to pass this important legislation.

**Plastic Pollution Is a Growing Problem for Ocean Health**

Plastic pollution is a growing threat to the world's oceans, as well as our food, health and climate. Each year, an estimated 17.6 billion pounds of plastic enters the marine environment. This is roughly equivalent to a garbage truck full of plastic being dumped into the oceans every minute.<sup>1</sup>

Nearly 40% of all plastic produced is for packaging, most of which is used once and then thrown away.<sup>2</sup> Plastic bags and other packaging and single-use products are profoundly flawed by design. These products are designed to be used for only a few moments before being disposed of, but the material they are made of was created to last forever.

Plastic pollution is everywhere. Scientists have found plastic floating on the surface of the ocean, washing up on the world's most remote coastlines, melting in Arctic sea ice, raining onto the Rocky Mountains, and even sitting at the deepest part of the ocean floor.<sup>3,4,5,6</sup> Plastic is harming our native wildlife and contaminating Maryland's waterways.<sup>7</sup>

Marine species around the globe and here in Maryland are being affected by plastic debris. A piece of plastic can look like food to a fish, turtle, marine mammal or bird. We are seeing increasing reports of dead whales beached with bellies full of plastic debris.<sup>8</sup> Tens of thousands of individual marine animals have been observed suffering from entanglement or ingestion of the plastic permeating the marine environment.<sup>9</sup>

- Home to over 3,600 plant and animal species, the Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the country and is an important part of Maryland's identity and economy. But it's being impacted by

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<sup>1</sup> Jambeck JR, Geyer R, Wilcox C, *et al.* (2015) Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean. *Science* 347: 768-771. doi: 10.1126/science.1260352

<sup>2</sup> Geyer R, Jambeck JR and Law KL (2017) Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. *Science Advances* 3. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.1700782

<sup>3</sup> Lavers JL and Bond JL (2017) Exceptional and rapid accumulation of anthropogenic debris on one of the world's most remote and pristine islands. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114: 6052-6055. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1619818114

<sup>4</sup> Chiba S, Saito H, Fletcher R, *et al.* (2018) Human footprint in the abyss: 30 year records of deep-sea plastic debris. *Marine Policy* 96: 204-212. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2018.03.022

<sup>5</sup> Peeken I, Primpke S, Beyer B, *et al.* (2018) Arctic sea ice is an important temporal sink and means of transport for microplastic. *Nature Communications* 9 doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-03825-5

<sup>6</sup> Wetherbee G, Baldwin A and Ranville J (2019) It is raining plastic: Open-File Report 2019-1048. *United States Geological Survey*. doi: 10.3133/ofr20191048

<sup>7</sup> Soper S (2019) Assateague Horse Incident Highlights Balloon Dangers. The Dispatch. Available: <https://mdcoastdispatch.com/2019/05/29/assateague-horse-incident-highlights-balloon-dangers/>. Accessed Feb 19, 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Irfan U (2019) The alarming trend of beached whales filled with plastic, explained. In: *Vox*. Available: <https://www.vox.com/2019/5/24/18635543/plastic-bags-whale-stomach-beached>. Accessed Jun 25, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Gall SC and Thompson RC (2015) The impact of debris on marine life. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 92: 170-179. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2014.12.041

our dependence on single-use plastics - according to a 2014 study, microplastics were found in 59 out of 60 water samples from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.<sup>10</sup>

- Plastic ingestion and entanglements can lead to death by starvation or suffocation for marine life. Ingested plastic may also cause ulcers or punctures and impair feeding, growth, mobility, reproduction and behavior.<sup>11,12</sup>
- At least 17% of the species observed to be affected by marine debris are listed as near threatened or more endangered,<sup>13</sup> indicating that marine plastic debris may be contributing to the potential of species extinction.

Global production of plastic is now projected to increase at least fourfold between 2014 and 2050.<sup>14</sup> As plastic production increases, so will the amount of plastic that enters the ocean.

### **Solution: Reduce Plastic Pollution at the Source**

Recycling is not enough to solve the plastic pollution crisis. Waste-management solutions have not adequately dealt with plastic pollution in the past and cannot realistically keep up with the rising rates of plastic production. Only 9% of all the plastic waste ever produced has been recycled.<sup>15</sup> The rest of it has been incinerated, landfilled, or lost in the environment.

Policies governing the production and use of single-use plastic are the most effective way to stem the flow of it into our oceans, bays, and wetlands, and these policies are becoming more common all around the world. While multiple countries have taken national action, the United States has so far failed to implement a nationwide policy that comprehensively addresses the plastics crisis threatening our future.

Instead, U.S. cities, counties and states have been leading the way. Just last month, the City of Baltimore prohibited grocers and other retailers from providing single-use plastic checkout bags and imposed a surcharge on alternatives in order to curb plastic pollution and reduce overall waste. Other municipalities in Maryland are considering similar legislation to reduce throwaway plastic, but it's critically important that we come together as a state to lead the way in fighting plastic pollution.

SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, does just that. By working to reduce the use of plastic bags throughout the state, encouraging the use of reusable over paper bags as alternatives, and establishing a working group to explore ways that we can reduce other single-use plastic items entering our waterways, Maryland would be taking a key step to addressing this global crisis.

We strongly support SB 313, including the provision imposing a small fee on alternative bags in order to encourage consumers to switch to reusable bags and reduce overall consumption. We believe this bill will

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<sup>10</sup> Yonkos LT, Friedel EA, Perez-Reyes AC, Ghosal S and Arthur CD (2014) Microplastic in four estuarine rivers in the Chesapeake Bay, U.S.A. *Environmental Science & Technology* 48: 14195-14202. doi: 10.1021/es5036317

<sup>11</sup> Cole M, Lindeque P, Fileman E, Halsband C and Galloway TS (2015) The Impact of Polystyrene Microplastics on Feeding, Function and Fecundity in the Marine Copepod *Calanus helgolandicus*. *Environmental Science & Technology* 49: 1130-1137. doi: 10.1021/es504525u

<sup>12</sup> Watts AJR, Urbina MA, Corr S, Lewis C and Galloway TS (2015) Ingestion of Plastic Microfibers by the Crab *Carcinus maenas* and Its Effect on Food Consumption and Energy Balance. *Environmental Science & Technology* 49: 14597-14604. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b04026

<sup>13</sup> Gall SC and Thompson RC (2015) The impact of debris on marine life. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 92: 170-179. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2014.12.041

<sup>14</sup> -- (2016) The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics. World Economic Forum. 36p.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

have a significant impact on the amount of plastic pollution that impacts the Chesapeake Bay, marine life along the Atlantic coast, and communities who depend on these unique ecosystems and species. We thank you for the opportunity to testify and urge you to pass this important legislation to reduce plastic pollution.

Jacob Ross  
Field Campaigns Fellow, Oceana

## **Senator Augustine\_fav\_sb313**

Uploaded by: Senator Augustine, Senator Augustine

Position: FAV

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# Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

— SB 313 —

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# In Maryland: Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

- Prohibits retailers from providing plastic carryout bags\* at the point of sale
- Requires retailers to charge at least 10 cents for paper or other carryout bags
- Establishes a **Single-Use Products Working Group** to recommend further actions to reduce plastic and single-use container waste in Maryland

*\*Defined as plastic carryout bags less than 4 mils thick.*

# What's being done

- Six counties and cities in Maryland have plastic bag legislation, with more in the works...
- Eight states currently have hybrid bans (ban on plastic, charge for paper or reusable alternatives)...
- Globally, 76 countries have bag bans across five continents



# What about exemptions?

- Package bulk items, including fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items
- Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or **fish**, whether prepackaged or not
- Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other **damp items**
- Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
- Contain a newspaper
- Contain garments or dry-cleaned clothes, including suits, jackets, and dresses
- A bag provided by a pharmacist that contains prescription drugs; or
- Plastic bags sold in **packages containing multiple plastic bags**.

# Why a Price Floor versus Fee?

- **Behavior Change**
  - **Throw away culture**
- **Transparency**
- **Lower overhead costs for businesses – less single use bags**
- **Not a tax**
- **Never about the money – about our environment and quality of life**

# Win for State & Local Governments



# Low Income Impact

- **SNAP/WIC**
  - **No exemptions in Maryland others have done so**
- **Agencies and Localities distribute reusable bags**
- **Work Group priority to address prior to next legislative session**
- **Environmental Justice**

# Why a State Wide Standard?

- **State Wide Problem**
  - Beaches, waterways, agriculture, tourism
- **Silent Pre Emption**
  - Patchwork
- **Level Playing Field for Retailers big and small**
- **Predictability**

# Why price on paper?

- Massive increase in paper usage
- Paper bags still litter neighborhoods
- Upstream environmental cost of paper production
- Paper bags are far more expensive for stores
- Increasing paper bags = increase in timber use and deforestation
- Analysis of bans show that a min.10 cent charge is needed to effectively change behavior

# A Plastic Planet & A Plastic State

- **The world is facing a plastic pollution crisis:** *Oceans take in 5-13 million tons of plastic from land-based sources annually. By 2050, more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean*
  - Americans throw away [100 billion plastic bags](#) annually
  - 8 million tons of plastic waste enter our waterways **each year**
- **Plastic shopping bags are a major contributor:** *Worldwide, estimated 1 trillion plastic shopping bags annually. They're among the top 5 plastic products collected in beach cleanups in the US. At major grocery chains in MD, 75%-88% of shoppers use single-use bags, 98+% are plastic.*
- **Plastic bags pollute our waterways, threaten wildlife and human health.**

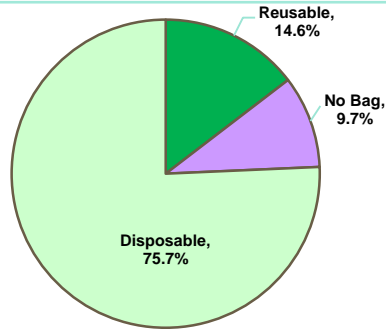
**Fortunately – there  
is a solution...**

- Plastic bag bans & requiring stores to charge for paper bags has proven effective in states, cities, and countries where they have been implemented...
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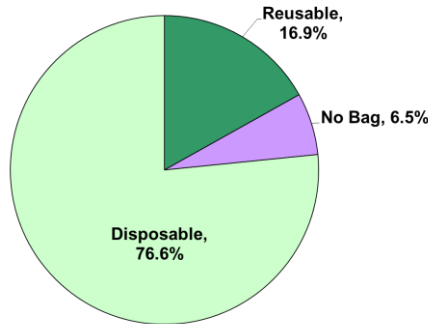


# Bag bans and fees work!

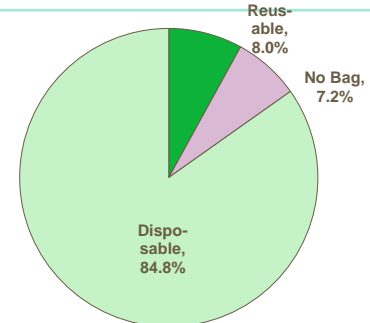
When bags are provided “free”,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or more of shoppers choose them  
 $\geq 98\%$  of single-use bags are plastic



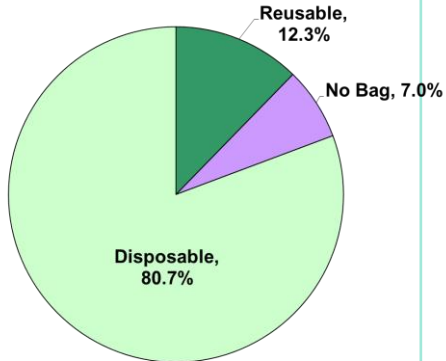
City of Baltimore, 2019  
(15 stores; 2,487 shoppers)



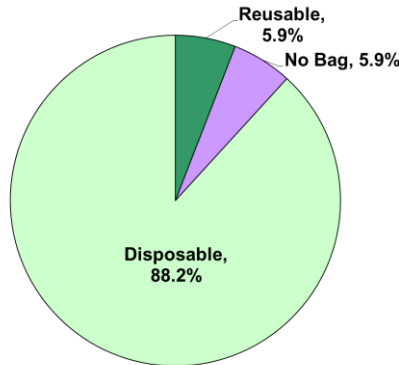
Howard County, 2019  
(19 stores, 3,185 shoppers)



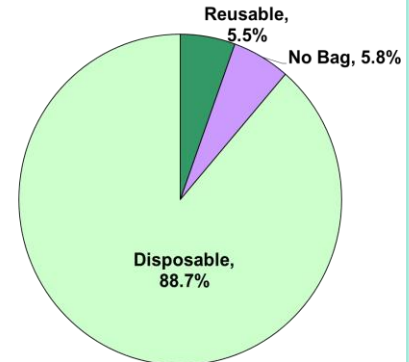
Queen Anne's County  
(4 stores, 1,271 shoppers)



Frederick County, 2019  
(20 stores, 2,588 shoppers)

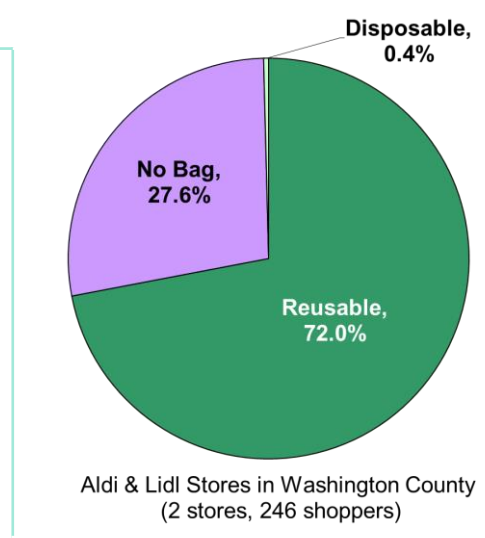
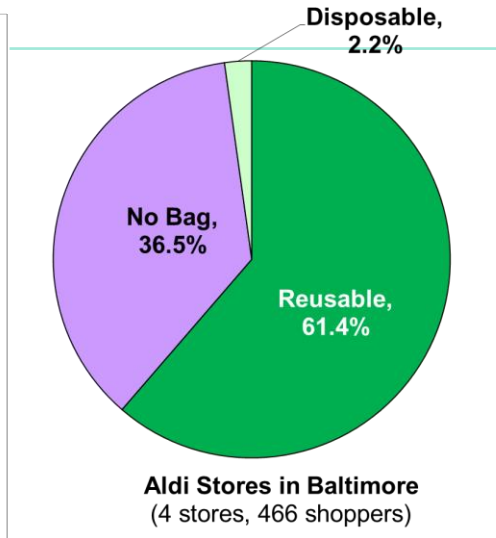
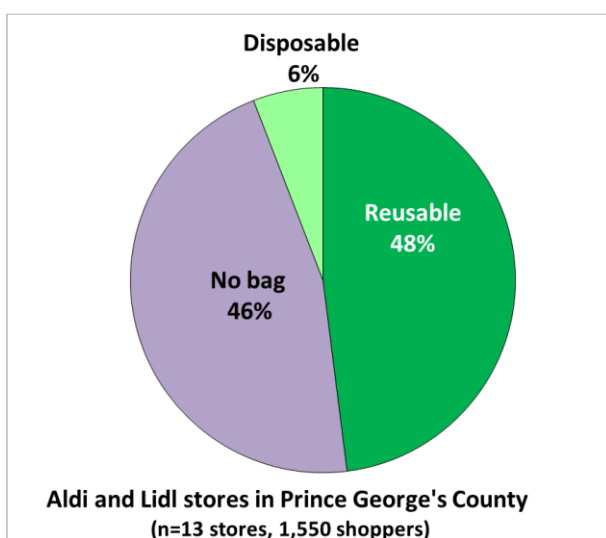


Prince George's County, 2019  
(48 stores, 7,694 shoppers)



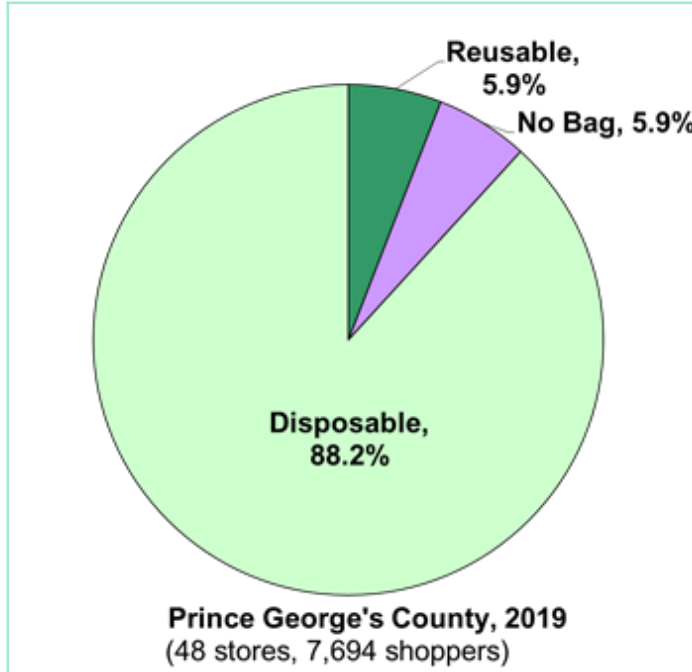
Washington County, 2019  
(10 stores, 2,337 shoppers)

# When plastic bags aren't available and other bags cost, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all

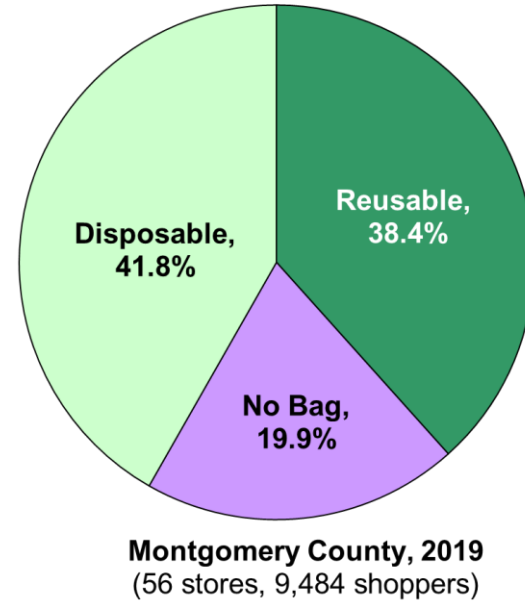


*From the Aldi website: "...one of the ways we help our customers save money is by encouraging them to bring their own shopping bags.... The end result is that we do not only save our customers money – by not adding the cost of the bag to our prices – but also precious resources."*

# Montgomery County's 5-cent bag fee incentivizes shoppers to use reusable bags or no bag

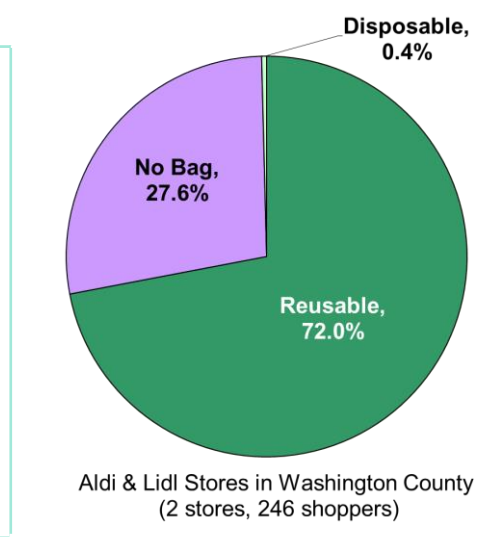
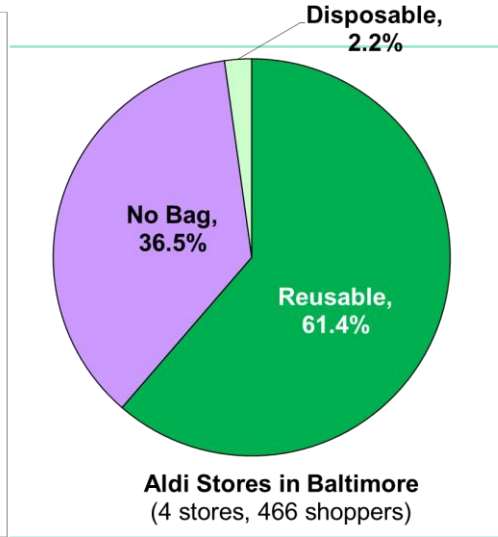
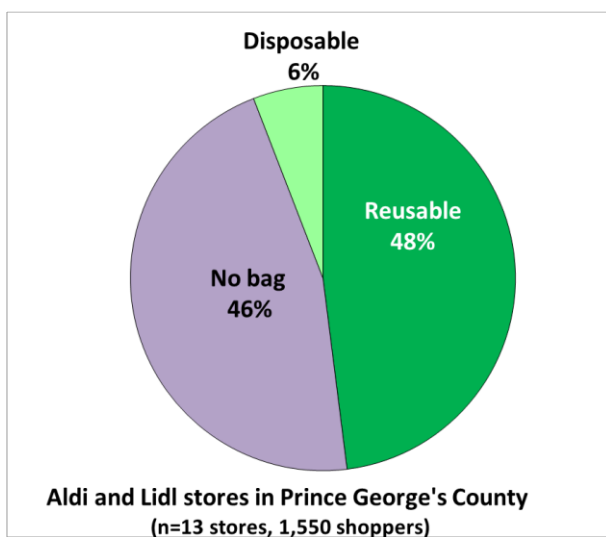


**No Fee**



**5-Cent Fee**

# When plastic bags aren't available and other bags cost, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all



*From the Aldi website: "...one of the ways we help our customers save money is by encouraging them to bring their own shopping bags.... The end result is that we do not only save our customers money – by not adding the cost of the bag to our prices – but also precious resources."*

# Single use bags are a lose/lose/lose

- Pollutes our neighborhoods, our water, our air, and our soil
- Threatens our public health and our wildlife
- Drives climate change
- Recycling is not an effective solution
- Litters our neighborhoods



# This legislation is a win/win/win/win

- Win for Marylanders
- Win for the State/Local Governments
- Win for retailers and small business
- Win for our neighborhoods, our air, our water and our wildlife



# **OCSurfrider\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Taylor, Malcolm

Position: FAV



**February 11, 2020**

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee

Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair  
Economic Matters Committee

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair,  
Finance Committee

**RE: Maryland State bills HB 209 and SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act.**

Dear Delegates Barve and Davis, and Senator Kelley,

Surfrider Foundation's Ocean City Chapter would like to express our support for Maryland State bills HB 209 and SB 313, which would ban single use plastic bags and place a ten cent fee on paper bags in the State of Maryland.

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches for all people. We submit these comments on behalf of our 80 chapters, 90 youth clubs, and more than 500,000 supporters, activists, and members in the United States, including our local chapter most affected by this proposed legislation: our Ocean City Chapter.

As Marylanders, the health of our waterways, beaches, and fisheries is critical to our local economy and our way of life. The Ocean City Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation tracks the trash we pick up during our beach cleanups, and plastic bags are one of the top items collected. Plastic bags pose a significant threat to our waterways, wildlife, and seafood.



Plastic bags also cost the taxpayer, by increasing clean up costs from littered bags, and increasing costs to recycling facilities, where they clog recycling machines and force workers to stop and remove them. And recycling thin plastic bags is not the answer, as only about 1-5% are recycled nationally, even after decades of promoting this method.<sup>1</sup>

Maryland House Bill 209 and Senate Bill 313, jointly the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, ban thin plastic bags at the checkout counter, while placing a fee of 10 cents on paper bags and newly purchased reusable checkout bags. This is a proven method to effectively reduce plastic bag pollution.

A year after passing similar legislation to HB 209 and SB 313, the city of San Jose, CA saw bag litter in storm drains reduced by 89%, and customers either not using a bag or bringing their own increased by around 80%. The major recycling collection company in San Jose cut the time spent untangling plastic bags from their machines by 50%. After the implementation of a 7-cent fee in Chicago, IL, the number of plastic bags used at grocery stores reduced by 42%.<sup>2</sup>

Given the option to pay a small fee for these polluting, unnecessary bags, or choose a more cost effective, reusable bag, the public has overwhelmingly chosen to bring their own bag.

Many other states and cities have passed similar legislation to the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, including Washington DC, California, and Chicago. Right here in Maryland, cities Baltimore, Chestertown, and Westminster, as well as Montgomery County, have already passed such legislation, so it makes sense to take the idea statewide in order to have one standard.

Help us pass common sense legislation HB 209 and SB 313, so we can keep our beautiful natural areas clean of plastic bag litter, reduce taxpayer dollars spent on clean ups, and keep plastic bags from poisoning wildlife and seafood in the State of Maryland.

Thank you for considering our comments,

Malcolm Taylor, Vice Chair,  
Ocean City Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation  
vicechair@oceancity.surfrider.org

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<sup>1</sup> Plastic BagLaws.org. *Available at:* [plasticbaglaws.org](http://plasticbaglaws.org)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

# **CBF\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Thomas-Wilhite, Carmera

Position: FAV



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **Senate Bill 313**

Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

**DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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**The Chesapeake Bay Foundation requests a favorable report on SB 313 Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act from the Finance Committee.** This bill seeks to reduce plastic pollution by prohibiting retailers from distributing plastic bags to customers at the point of sale and imposing a ten-cent price for paper bags provided to customers.

Nearly two million single-use plastic bags are distributed worldwide every minute. Many of these bags become litter that degrades residential communities and pollutes natural environments. The Chesapeake Bay is a landing point for plastics pollution. Plastics pollution harms shorelines and water habitats and threatens aquatic life. As plastic pollution breaks down, it forms microplastics. These microplastics create an imbalance in the food chain in Chesapeake Bay, disrupting the primary food source for many marine animals.<sup>1</sup>

This legislation attempts to reduce plastic pollution at the source through reducing the number of plastic bags introduced in Maryland. The prohibition on plastic bags and price on paper alternatives intends to encourage customers to adopt the habit of re-usable bags. The bill's requirements and incentives aim to reduce plastics pollution. If successful, SB 313 may lessen the plastic debris entering local rivers and streams and protect the Chesapeake Bay from pollution from its tributaries.

**For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation urges a favorable report on SB 313.** Please contact Carmera Thomas-Wilhite, Baltimore Program Manager, at [carmerathomas@cbf.org](mailto:carmerathomas@cbf.org) with any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Cole, M. (2015). The Impact of Polystyrene Microplastics on Feeding, Function and Fecundity in the Marine Copepod *Calanus helgolandicus*. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 49, 2, 1130-1137. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es504525u>.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403  
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*

# **SB313\_MRA\_One Pager Bag Pricing**

Uploaded by: Tolle, Cailey Locklair

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



## PAPER BAGS

Volume Amounts for small retail 1,000-10,000

Bag Size: Small gift bag 8 x 4 x 10 x 4

Fashion 16 x 6 x 12 x 6

## TYPES OF BAGS

### Rope Paper Handle Bags

Highest volume discount 1000, foil print 18 cents.

Small \$.65- \$.76

Fashion \$1.01-1.35



### Paper shoppers with grosgrain (ribbon) handle

Highest volume 1000

Small \$1.01

Fashion \$1.69



### Uncoated paper, twill ribbon handle

Highest volume 1000

Small \$.93

Fashion \$1.54



### Die cut handle matte laminated, fold over tops

Highest volume 1000

Small \$1.23

Fashion \$2.98



### Full color rope handle paper euro totes

Highest volume 10000 foil print \$.06

Small \$.56

Fashion \$1.085



### 100% Recyclable paper shoppers, 40% post-consumer content

Highest volume 10,000

Small \$.67

Fashion \$1.06



### Paper twist handle shopping bags

Highest volume 1000

Small \$.34

Fashion \$.47



## REUSABLE BAGS

Fabric style, non-woven, composite, polyester shoppers, laminated, polypropylene, highest volume discount 5,000, 8 x 4 x 10 x 4 – 16 x 6 x 14 x 6, PRINT COSTS MIN 18 CENTS EXTRA \$.89-\$1.89.



# NeighborsoftheNWBranch\_FAV\_SB313

Uploaded by: Turbe, Laura

Position: FAV



*Of the Anacostia River*

**SB0313 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

**Committee: Finance**

**Hearing date: February 20, 2020**

**Lead Sponsor: Senator Augustine**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the committee,

I submit this testimony in support of SB0313 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act-- on behalf of the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit all-volunteer watershed organization with over 200 members and supporters in Montgomery and Prince Georges counties. We are committed to restoring the health of the 19-mile long Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River so that this urban treasure can be safely enjoyed by wildlife, our families, and generations to come.

This bill will help address the numerous problems traceable to plastic pollution. The negative impacts of plastic waste on the environment and on human health have been thoroughly established. The EPA recognizes that “[p]lastics pose both physical (e.g., entanglement, gastrointestinal blockage, reef destruction) and chemical threats (e.g., bioaccumulation of the chemical ingredients of plastic or toxic chemicals absorbed by plastics) to wildlife and the marine ecosystem” (<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/toxicological-threats-plastic>). In the aquatic environments and watersheds that our organization aims to protect, our volunteers always find discarded plastic, whole bags or fragments, and students have identified microplastics in the water using a microscope.

Plastics also play a role in the release of toxic chemicals into waterways. A recent survey of decades of scientific findings found strong evidence that plastics release an endocrine-disrupting chemical into the environment as they break down (<https://biodesign.asu.edu/news/perils-plastics-risks-human-health-and-environment>). This has a direct impact on human hormone functions. In addition to the chemicals plastics release into our environment, they also make it easier for dangerous chemicals from a variety of sources to reach hazardous concentrations. A study in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin* found that microplastics in aquatic environments attract high levels of “persistent organic pollutants” that occur naturally in seawater. By concentrating

these pollutants, microplastics contribute to higher pollutant levels within organisms that consume microplastics. Those high concentrations work their way up the food chain, damaging entire ecosystems and the humans that rely on them (<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.460.1971&rep=rep1&type=pdf>). It is important to recognize that these harmful effects of plastic not only degrade the water our organization seeks to protect, but that this degradation affects the people who depend on and use those water sources every day. This problem is urgent and demands bold action.

Our organization has seen first-hand the impact that single-use plastics, including plastic bags, have on our state's watersheds, streams, and rivers. We are also keenly aware of Maryland's obligation as an integral part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and have been encouraged by the reduction in plastic bags we've found following Montgomery County's bag tax, implemented in 2012. However, it is also the case that the bag tax does not go far enough. Some retailers have been lax in charging the fee, and a five-cent tax is limited in its ability to change consumer behavior in the long-term if stores continue to provide easy access to single-use plastic bags. As the experience of other towns and states across the country has shown, a ban on these bags would go a long way toward large-scale reduction of the amount of plastic entering our environment. SB0313 is to be further recommended for its establishment of a Single-Use Products Workgroup, which ensures that the bag ban will be not just a solitary measure, but rather a starting-point for future progress.

The state of Maryland is fortunate to encompass a wealth of watersheds, creeks, streams, lakes, and coastal areas. But these environmental riches must not be taken for granted. Instead, we must recognize our stewardship responsibility, preserve what we have, and rehabilitate what has already been harmed.

The Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act represents one action we can take to achieve those goals. **The Neighbors of the Northwest Branch strongly urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0313.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Laura Turbe, President  
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch  
P.O. Box 4314  
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Contact: Michael Evans, 62evansm@cua.edu



# **PGCCouncil\_FAV\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Turner, Todd

Position: FAV



**ABC\_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Ayira, Adar

Position: FWA



**“Changing the Future”**

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February 19, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

Maryland State Senate

A. Adar Ayira, Senior Director Strategy and Racial Equity

Associated Black Charities

Re: SB 313, Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Associated Black Charities (ABC) is a public foundation in the State of Maryland. We seek to change the economic outcomes for African American Marylanders through working to eliminate race-based structural and institutional barriers which truncate opportunity and access for those within and/or aspiring to be in the Maryland workforce, and which negatively impact the economic viability of the state.

The incorporation of a Racial Equity Lens in every level of policy making is essential in “seeding success” for all Maryland communities by working to counteract the unfortunate economic and social legacies of our country's – and this state's – racialized history.

As ABC explains in its policy education document “Policy Applications of a Racial Equity Lens: Ten Essential Questions for Policy Development, Review and Evaluation”, analyzing the impact of policies on racial and other marginalized groups is not new, either nationally or internationally. Cities such as Seattle (WA), Madison (WI), St. Paul (MN), and Iowa City (IA) have incorporated procedures for determining disparate racialized impacts of policies on historically marginalized populations. On issues specific to environmental concerns like those addressed in the unamended HR209, Maryland has an opportunity to provide a model for moving forward in ways that do not disproportionately penalize those least able to bear the economic burden.

The first question in ABC's “Ten Essential Questions” brochure is “How is an equity lens incorporated within the policy?” We were asked this question as it relates to SB313 and understand that the proposed amendment seeks to ensure that that question is addressed.

Other questions that should be considered in ensuring that economically marginalized Marylanders are protected include:

- Does the legislation unequivocally protect those whom would be negatively and disproportionately burdened by the imposed fees?
- Is there a disproportionate economic burden borne by African American, non-Black people of color, and other low wage workers, as well as by WIC and SNAP recipients in the State?
- Who will be disproportionately impacted?

**MACo\_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Butler, Alex

Position: FWA



## **Senate Bill 313**

### *Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 20, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 313 WITH AMENDMENTS**. As introduced, the bill would preempt several existing or pending county programs and divert revenues from important local environmental purposes.

The bill would prohibit retailers from providing customers with certain plastic carryout bags and require that retailers collect 10 cents for every “durable bag” they provide. However, the bill would also needlessly preempt incoming or already established bag ban programs in Baltimore City and Baltimore and Montgomery Counties and in practice prohibit any other county from establishing such a program. Additionally, the bill requires counties to act as the enforcers of the bill’s provisions.

Currently, Howard County imposes a 5-cent fee on plastic bags. The estimated revenue per year for the County is \$685,400, and the money collected is allocated to worthy causes such as providing reusable bags to vulnerable residents and grants for water quality measures. Montgomery County has a 5-cent fee which generates roughly \$2.5 million dollars per year. That money goes into their Water Quality Protection Charge (WPQC) fund that provides financing for improvements to the water quality of local streams and efforts to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. Baltimore City just enacted a 5-cent fee and will use a portion of that fee for program administration and enforcement.

The attached amendments would maintain the overall objectives in the bill while also addressing the preemption issue by requiring that 5 cents from the bill’s proposed 10-cent fee would go to county governments for water quality projects, litter control initiatives, reusable bag programs for vulnerable residents, and enforcement efforts under the bill.

SB 313 addresses an important environmental concern but needlessly preempts existing county programs and mandates counties enforce the bill’s provisions. For these reasons, MACo requests the Committee give SB 313 a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** (proposed amendments included on the next page).

**MACo SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO SB 313**

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 13 through 25 and substitute

"19-106.

(C) (1) (I) A STORE SHALL CHARGE AND COLLECT AT LEAST 10 CENTS FOR EACH DURABLE CARRYOUT BAG THAT THE STORE PROVIDES TO A CUSTOMER.

(II) FROM THE MONEY COLLECTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, THE STORE SHALL:

1. REMIT 5 CENTS TO THE COUNTY WHERE THE STORE IS LOCATED; AND

2. RETAIN THE REMAINDER.

(III) A COUNTY MAY ONLY USE MONEY RECEIVED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

1. WATER QUALITY PROJECTS;

2. LITTER REDUCTION;

3. PROVIDING REUSABLE BAGS TO LOW-INCOME OR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS; AND

4. ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION."; and

On page 4, after line 16 insert "(3) THIS ACT SHALL NOT BE INTERPRETED TO LIMIT THE PROVISIONS THAT A COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT, TO THE EXTENT THESE LOCAL PROVISIONS ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT."

# **MoCo\_Elrich\_FWA\_SB 313**

Uploaded by: Elrich, Marc

Position: FWA





## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 313 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Dear Chairman Kelley:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 313 with a proposed amendment. This bill prohibits a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag” (defined as any plastic bag less than 4 mils or 0.004 inches thick) and requires a store to charge, collect, and retain at least \$0.10 for each “durable carryout bag” provided to a customer. The bill requires county governments to enforce the plastic carryout bag ban and ensure stores charge and retain the \$0.10 cent fee on durable carryout bags. It also establishes a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each violation and establishes a Single-Use products workgroup.

In 2012, Montgomery County enacted a \$0.05 excise tax on both paper and plastic disposable carryout bags. Under County ordinance, the retailer retains \$0.01 and the County receives \$0.04. The County’s tax is intended to act as an incentive to help consumers rethink their need for disposable bags.

The revenue from the bag tax goes directly into the Department of Environmental Protection’s Water Quality Protection Fund – a dedicated fund for water quality improvement activities. The total revenue generated from the bag tax since its inception is approximately \$20 million. This has had a tremendous impact on the County’s initiatives to improve the water quality of streams and reduce the impacts of stormwater. Water quality programs include: inspection and maintenance of stormwater management facilities; restoration of polluted and eroded streams; watershed restoration to add stormwater controls and improve local water quality; stream monitoring; and storm drain cleaning and maintenance.

While I *fully support* the ban on plastic carryout bags proposed by Senate Bill 313, the County would like to preserve its very successful carryout bag tax program for durable carryout bags as defined in the bill. If preserving existing local programs is not feasible, I believe a portion of the \$.10 fee on durable carryout bags should be remitted to the county governments tasked with enforcing the ban. Currently, eight states have bans on plastic carryout bags. These include:

- **New York:** Will ban plastic bags beginning on March 1, 2020. No fee for paper bags, but state law enables local governments to enact a \$.05 fee on paper bags, with \$.02 going to local governments for enforcement and \$.03 going to the state's Environmental Protection Fund.
- **Delaware:** Will ban plastic bags at large retail stores beginning on January 1, 2021. Retailers may provide paper bags at no cost or charge for the bags at their discretion. Cities with more than 50,000 residents may require smaller stores to comply with the state law.
- **California:** Currently bans plastic bags and requires a minimum \$.10 fee on paper and reusable plastic bags. The fee is remitted to and retained by the retailer. California's state law preserved existing local programs around the state.

The goal of Senate Bill 313 is laudable, but it should not be done to the detriment of the counties. To date, the revenue generated by the County's bag tax program has been used to remove over 18,000 pounds of litter from streams, provide 200,000 reusable bags to residents, launch multiple anti-litter campaigns, and provide \$2.1 million in grants to the community for various clean-up programs. Reallocating this revenue to the retailers would be a tremendous environmental loss to our community. I strongly urge you to consider preserving existing programs or remitting a portion of the fee to the counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Elrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Elrich".

Marc Elrich

**Julia Gross\_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Gross, Julia

Position: FWA

February 20, 2020

Sign on letter regarding amendments to SB 313

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Senate Bill 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, aims to ban the distribution of single-use plastic grocery bags because of their out-sized contribution to litter along Maryland's streams and roadways. One unintended consequence is the disparate impact to Marylanders experiencing poverty; in particular, those who utilize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women's, Infants and Children (WIC) program to purchase food.

There are over 797,000 SNAP and WIC participants in Maryland.<sup>i</sup> By charging a 10-cent fee across the board, this bill does not consider the daily realities of Marylanders who rely on federal food assistance programs. For example, federal law prohibits using SNAP or WIC benefits to pay for a bag fee – or other non-food items. So, if someone purchasing groceries with their benefits forgets their reusable bag one day and doesn't happen to have a dime on them, they have no option but to carry out their items in their arms. While keeping reusable bags handy is pretty simple if you drive a car to the grocery store, it's not as easy to keep reusable bags accessible all the time if you use public transit. And car or not, we all forget our reusable bags sometimes.

As currently written, this bill places the sole responsibility of reducing disposable bag use on consumers instead of asking businesses and corporations to play a role in improving the health of our state. We can do better.

In 2014, California exempted SNAP/WIC users from their bag fee to ensure it did not create a financial burden for those least able to afford it.<sup>ii</sup> As of March 1, 2020, New York is about to do the same. After the mayor vetoed a prior bag bill due to concerns about disproportionate impacts,<sup>iii</sup> Providence, Rhode Island implemented a community-driven process to seek input on their plastic bag ban and other zero waste strategies through a racial equity lens.<sup>iv</sup>

As advocates for healthy communities, low-income Marylanders, and a clean environment, we respectfully request that the committee exempt SNAP and WIC users from the ten cent fee on paper bags and create a provision that would return a small portion of the collected fee on paper bags to grocery retail outlets that provide bags to SNAP and WIC users without charge. We fully support the intent of this bill to reduce plastic pollution across the state of Maryland, and encourage alternatives to single-use bags, but we believe it can be improved to ensure it does not have a disparate impact on Marylanders experiencing poverty. As committee members considering this bill, you have an opportunity to improve an environmental bill by amending the PPRA. We respectfully request that you stand with all Marylanders and make this change so we can build both a more sustainable and equitable future, and that we do so together. Making this change will also ensure that the policy is more equitable and inclusive. We stand ready to continue to work with you in good faith to achieve this outcome.

Thank you,

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Maryland Nonprofits

Out For Justice

Montgomery County Food Council

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Advocates for Children and Youth

AMNGLOBAL

NAACP Maryland State Council of Branches

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<sup>i</sup> Data from Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of Human Services, January 2020. And the Maryland Department of Health

<sup>ii</sup> “Ban on Single-Use Carryout Bags (SB 270 / Proposition 67) Frequently Asked Questions,” *California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery*, Last updated: October 10, 2018, <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/plastics/carryoutbags/faq>.

<sup>iii</sup> 3 Mayor Jorge Elorza, “Regarding: Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, ‘Health and Sanitation,’ of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence to Establish Section 20, ‘Reduction of Single-Use Checkout Bags by Retail Establishments,” March 26, 2018, [http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wrni/files/201803/VetoLetter\\_3.26.pdf?\\_ga=2.112815501.806671840.1522115552-2064315171.1493262417](http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wrni/files/201803/VetoLetter_3.26.pdf?_ga=2.112815501.806671840.1522115552-2064315171.1493262417)

<sup>iv</sup> 4 Steve Ahlquist, “Plastic bags are bad, negatively impacting poor people is worse, says REJC,” Uprise RI, March 16, 2018, <https://upriseri.com/2018-03-16-plastic-bag-ban-impacts-poor-people/>.

**NWRA\_FWA\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FWA

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**

a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 313 – *Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act*

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The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 313, related to the composition of the Single Use Products Workgroup.

Senate Bill 313 prohibits a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag” and requires a store to charge, collect, and retain at least 10-cents for each “durable carryout bag” provided to a customer. While plastic bags definitely contribute to local litter problems and present challenges for recycling facilities in the management of recyclable materials, MDSWA’s primary interest in this legislation is the proposed creation of a Single-Use Products Workgroup.

The stated purpose of the Single-Use Products Workgroup is to study, identify, assess, and make recommendations regarding materials, process, infrastructure, and policy to directly address plastic and single-use container waste throughout Maryland in alignment with the Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland that was established by Executive Order 01.01.2017.13. Included in the Workgroup’s charges is the evaluation of current State and municipal policies and requirements for the management of single-use products and to recommend policies or requirements that the State should enact to reduce the use of single-use products, reduce the environmental impact of single-use products, improve statewide management of single-use

products, divert single-use products from disposal in landfills, and prevent contamination of natural resources by discarded single-use products.

The Workgroup membership includes two members from the solid waste industry. MDSWA strongly supports the inclusion of the waste industry on the Workgroup but would request that the language of the bill be amended to specifically include a representative from MDSWA on the Workgroup as opposed to two industry representatives generally. MDSWA representation would enhance the quality of information and analysis that the Association could provide to the Workgroup in achieving its objectives. MDSWA would also suggest that the Maryland Recycling Network, which includes both public and private sector entities engaged in the recycling industry, be included as a member of the Workgroup.

With its amendments to the Workgroup composition noted, MDSWA requests a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Richard A. Tabuteau

410-244-7000



# **Energy Justice Network \_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Kelton, Zeki

Position: FWA



February 20, 2020

Comments before Senate Finance Cmte

**FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**SB 313: Plastics and Packaging  
Reduction Act**

**Zeki Kelton**  
**Baltimore Organizer**  
**Energy Justice Network**  
240-330-3325  
zeki@energyjustice.net  
[www.EnergyJustice.net](http://www.EnergyJustice.net)

Good afternoon. My name is Zeki Kelton, Baltimore Organizer with Energy Justice Network. Energy Justice works at the local level with grassroots community groups in Maryland and the rest of the country to support efforts to promote zero waste, and to stop polluting and unnecessary energy and waste industry facilities, with a focus on ending waste incineration.

We strongly support this bill. Based on our experience of DC's plastic bag tax, however, we would like to see the enforcement provisions strengthened.

The maximum penalty is \$500 per week after a 3-month probation period. For medium and large stores, this is just the cost of doing business. Supermarkets could easily flout this and just pay the fines in the rare cases when a county might enforce this law. After a first violation, we'd recommend that you allow each day to be a new violation, or increase penalty maximums and set minimums.

The law says it "shall" be enforced by counties, but doesn't offer resources to counties or require any level of enforcement staffing. Enough \$500 per week fines might fund enforcement staff after each 3-month period passes, but an outlay of county funding would be needed for initial months before fines can come in. It's hard to see counties choosing to hire sufficient enforcement staff. At least for the first year, the law should require no less than one full-time enforcement person in each county. Even one such position will be quite insufficient to cover a county's worth of stores.

To make this easier on counties, the 3-month probation period should be reduced to one month. The bill should also be amended to clarify that only one probation period is to be granted per store – and per company for those with multiple points of sale under one management. As written, a store can be in violation, "correct" the violation within three months, evading fines, then be in violation again and get another notice with another three months to "correct" things? Supermarket chains in DC have routinely violated their plastic bag tax, with some tellers not charging for bags as required, and this sporadic and ongoing violation evades enforcement.

To aid enforcement, the state should set up a mobile phone app where people can take time-stamped pictures of bags being sold, or durable carryout bags given away without any charge on the receipts. These could be automatically submitted to the appropriate enforcement agent for the county.

Amendments recommended:

- After the first violation, allow each day to be a new violation, and/or increase penalty maximums and set minimum penalties.
- Change 3-month probation period to 1 month.
- Allow only one probation period per store (or per-company for those with multiple points of sale under one management).
- Mandate 1 full-time enforcement staffperson per county in the first year.
- Set up a mobile app to report to law enforcement.

**PIJAC\_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Likins, Robert

Position: FWA



**TESTIMONY OF THE PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE  
MARYLAND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OF SENATE BILL 313**

February 20, 2020

POSITION: Request for Exemption

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer our views regarding SB 313, a bill that would ban the distribution of plastic bags at point of sale. As the country's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members national associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents the interests of, pet stores, suppliers, distributors, pet supply manufacturers, retailers and pet owners throughout the state of Maryland and across the country.

Let me start by saying that PIJAC is committed to conservation. We have for many years provided a well-respected animal care certification program that is widely utilized by not only persons in the commercial pet trade but shelters, humane societies and institutes of higher education as well. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and we routinely advocate legislative and regulatory proposals establishing governmental mandates where appropriate to advance the public interest and welfare of pets and the environment. PIJAC works closely with US Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and CITES to ensure effective enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act, management of threatened or endangered species and control of invasive species, and have since its inception. We regularly work with federal and state agencies as well as local governments to advance animal welfare and environmental interests.

PIJAC does not take a position on the establishment of bans on the distribution of plastic bags at point of sale. There are situations, however, when a common and essential use is overlooked. Plastic bags are commonly used in pet stores for the transportation of live plants and animals such as aquarium fish and are the option that is the most ecologically friendly, cost effective, and the safest for the transported animal. Many of our members print information on Habitatitude©, a joint PIJAC/USFWS program to prevent invasive species, on the plastic bags that are used to transport aquarium plants and animals. Further, eliminating the use of plastic bags would necessitate the use of Tupperware type containers which contain more plastic and require a more involved manufacturing process, increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

We request that you include an exemption for such use. The language that we suggest be included in the exceptions section is "Bags used to contain live plants or live animals, such as fish, snails, shrimp or insects sold in pet stores."

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Likins", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Likins  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

**DD Council The Arc POG\_SWA\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: London, Rachel

Position: FWA



## Senate Finance Committee

February 20, 2020

### SB 313: Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council's (Council) mission is to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, empowering people, and promoting innovation. People with developmental disabilities and their families want to participate fully in community activities. Dining out is no exception.

We understand the intent of the bill is to address the environmental concerns related to plastic carryout bags and other single-use packaging and products. **While we have no position related to carryout bags, we recommend the following amendments to Section 2, the Single-Use Products Workgroup:**

- Page 5, add: (vii) one representative of a statewide disability advocacy organization
- Page 6, add: (2) (vi) evaluate the impact on people with disabilities, and ensure single-use products are available when needed as an accommodation.

In order to have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in all facets of community life, including enjoying a meal at a restaurant, many people with developmental disabilities require **single-use plastic products, like straws.**

#### **WHY is this amendment important?**

- **Single-use plastic straws are important for many people with developmental disabilities.** Legislation banning or limiting single-use plastic straws in restaurants have been implemented in cities around the country. For example: Establishments in Seattle, Washington distributed paper straws and biodegradable options for their customers instead of plastic straws. **Paper straws are not acceptable for some people with disabilities.** Paper straws degrade quickly and can become choking hazards when used with warm or hot beverages. They are also easier to bite thru for people with limited jaw control.
- After implementing the law in Seattle, over a dozen Seattle chain restaurants reported that they had no plastic straws available for those in need when asked.<sup>1</sup>
- **Adding a member to the workgroup and requiring the evaluation of impact on people with disabilities results in more collaborative solutions from the outset.**

The Council, The Arc Maryland, and People on the Go of Maryland all support meaningful community life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Maryland must ensure that single-use plastic products are available to Marylanders who need them. Not doing so can make life even more complicated for people who rely on them.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council:  
RLondon@md-council.org

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<sup>1</sup> Danovich, T. (2018). NPR Choice page. [online] Npr.org. Available at: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/07/11/627773979/why-people-with-disabilities-want-bans-on-plastic-straws-to-be-more-flexible>.

# Montgomery County\_FWA\_SB313

Uploaded by: Ortiz, Adam

Position: FWA

**Testimony of Adam Ortiz on Senate Bill 313 (HB 209):**

**Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

**Finance Committee  
Maryland Senate**

Good afternoon Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman and members of the Committee. My name is Adam Ortiz, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.

The Montgomery County Executive fully supports the ban on plastic bags proposed by Senate Bill 313. However, the County would like to preserve its very successful carryout bag tax program for durable carryout bags allowed under the bill. If preserving existing local programs is not feasible, I believe a portion of the \$.10 fee on durable carryout bags should be remitted to the county governments tasked with enforcing the ban.

In 2012, Montgomery County enacted a \$0.05 excise tax on both paper and plastic disposable carryout bags. Under County ordinance, the retailer retains \$0.01 and the County receives \$0.04. The mission of the County's bag tax program is to provide patrons with a choice in how they decide to protect local water resources from the negative impacts of bag litter. Patrons may choose to (1) bring reusable bags, (2) refuse to purchase carry-out bags, or (3) pay the tax

The revenue from the bag tax goes directly into the Department of Environmental Protection's Water Quality Protection Fund – a dedicated fund for water quality improvement activities. The total revenue generated from the bag tax since its inception is approximately \$20 million. This has had a tremendous impact on the County's initiatives to improve the water quality of streams and reduce the impacts of stormwater. Since 2012, the County's bag tax has funded the following programs and accomplishments:

- Launched the White Oak Anti-litter and Gift Outside the Box Holiday campaigns.
- Placed nearly 600 ads on buses, bus shelters, recycling trucks.
- Gave \$2.1 million back to the community through 49 restoration and outreach grants including the County's first Band-a-long trash trap.
- Distributed over 200,000 reusable bags to residents.
- Funded 36 stream cleanups removing over 18,000 lbs. of litter.
- Hosted or participated in 1200 events, trainings or workshops educating over 145,000 citizens.
- Installed 140 pet waste stations in 43 communities reaching over 16,000 households. Collected 19 tons (38,000 lbs.) of pet waste since 2014.
- Installed over 800 RainScapes projects equaling \$1.57 million back to the community.
- Installed over 250 storm drain markers and 20 art projects.

For all these reasons, the Montgomery County Executive supports the ban on plastic bags proposed by Senate Bill 313. I strongly urge you to consider preserving existing programs or remitting a portion of the fee to the counties to allow us to continue our initiatives to protect local water resources.



**PCA\_FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Roddy, Pat

Position: FWA



**Aphelion Cigar Lounge 410-721-1700**  
2510 Conway Road, Ste. 106, Gambrills, MD 21054

**Annapolis Cigar Co. 410-295-7400**  
121 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Broadleaf Tobacco 410-315-8118**  
487 Ritchie Highway, #101, Severna Park, MD 21146

**Cross Street Tobacco 410-752-9220**  
1103 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

**Dan's Cigar Lounge 410-780-5959**  
8300-B Pulaski Highway, Rosedale, MD 21237

**Davidus Cigars Ltd. 301-865-1000**  
2134 Generals Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401  
1300 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21231  
1716 Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784  
9180 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
529 West South Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
25 Olney Sandy-Spring Road, Ashton, MD 20861  
10810 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117  
11632 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852  
15922 Shady Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20832  
8925 Fingerboard Road, Urbana, MD 21704  
23 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157  
25 Allegheny Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

**Eich-Art Awards 410-202-6616**  
931 Mount Hermon Road, Salisbury, MD 21804

**Main Street Cigar Company 410-734-4494**  
2217 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, MD 21015

**Mount Vernon Tobacco 410-728-5669**  
221 W. Read Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

**Mt. Washington Cigar Co. 410-377-4711**  
5909 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209

**Oakleigh Beach Tobacco 410-388-8080**  
702 Wise Avenue, Dundalk, MD 21222

**Senor Cigars 410-524-2069**  
11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842  
3314 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

**Signature Cigars 301-424-8833**  
1331 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852  
4919 Cordell Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

**Slow Burns Cigar Shoppe 443-830-0022**  
701 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

**Spartan Cigar Lounge 443-350-9808**  
128 East Pulaski Highway, Elkton, MD 21921

**The Book Center 301-722-8345**  
15 North Centre Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

**The Humidour Cigar Shoppe 410-666-3212**  
2 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

**TinderBox #398 301-374-9100**  
2754 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601

**Titan Cigar 410-721-2944**  
2634 Chapel Lake Drive, Gambrills, MD 21056

**Tobacco Leaf at Jessup 410-799-2094**  
7351 Assateague Drive, Jessup, MD 20794

**W. Curtis Draper Tobacconist Bethesda 301-907-7990**  
4916 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

February 20, 2020

## **Support for Senate Bill 313 with Amendments**

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Premium Cigar Retailers Association of Maryland represents over 30 adult-only brick and mortar premium cigar specialty stores in the State. Members of the PCRA have appeared before your committee on several other bills this session and we thank you for the opportunity to present our position again.

We are asking that premium cigars and pipe tobacco be included in the list of items in Senate Bill 313 for which a durable carryout bag can be provided by a retailer.

Premium cigars are a perishable good that can spoil just after two days of being unsealed and left uncontained, particularly in drier and colder climate conditions. Due to the potential of quick spoilage of premium cigars we ask that they be amended out of this bill.

For the reasons stated here we think that the perishable nature of premium cigars and pipe tobacco warrants the use of a plastic bag in order to keep the product fresh and usable. We believe premium cigars and pipe tobacco warrant the same protection as the other products listed in Senate Bill 313.

Accordingly, attached to this testimony is an amendment that will allow us to continue to provide our customers with a fresh and usable product in all cases.

For more information contact:

Patrick Roddy

Matt Bohle

Rifkin, Weiner, Livingston LLC

410-269-5066

[proddy@rwillaw.com](mailto:proddy@rwillaw.com)

[mbohle@rwillaw.com](mailto:mbohle@rwillaw.com)

# **Maryland Hunger Solutions \_ FWA\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Wilson, Michael

Position: FWA

February 11, 2020  
Committee on Finance  
Maryland Senate  
Testimony on SB 313

Michael J. Wilson, Director

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee.

Maryland Hunger Solutions is a statewide, non-partisan, nonprofit organization working to end hunger, improve nutrition, and promote the well-being of Marylanders in need by spreading best practices through education, advocacy, outreach, and collaboration.

That is why I am appearing before this committee today on Senate Bill 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act.

It is my hope that it can be amended so that its enactment will not have a disparate impact on low-income Marylanders; in particular, those who are participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

I want to be clear: environmental issues affect low-income consumers. These consumers also have a stake in addressing the challenges that impact their

neighborhoods and communities. But I also want to acknowledge that policy changes such as SB 313 can also have a disparate impact on low-income consumers.

This disparate impact is not an original idea of mine. States and cities from around the nation have recognized this impact, and have sought to address it in similar legislative efforts which have become law.

I want to make three critical points.

First, as currently proposed, this legislation would definitely have a disparate impact on low-income consumers.

Second, there are potential solutions that the legislature should adopt in order to avoid these impacts.

Third, Maryland is not alone in addressing the issue of single-use plastic grocery bags; but Maryland should not intentionally move in a direction that leaves low-income Marylanders shouldering the cost.

By way of background, there are more than 600,000 Marylanders who are currently utilizing the SNAP program. They reside in every jurisdiction in the state, from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland, from the D.C. suburbs to the Pennsylvania line. Maryland's WIC participants share the same geographical diversity, and there are, according to official records, 197,000 of them.

Our neighbors who use these programs are of every age, from pregnant moms to newborns to seniors. They are of every race and nationality. Many of them work, some of them are homeless, and thousands of them are disabled. But the one thing that they

have in common is that they have been certified by the Maryland Department of Human Services or the Maryland Department of Health that they are eligible for federal nutrition benefits.

Becoming enrolled for these benefits is not easy; in fact, it has been compared to filing your taxes. Participants must document their household income, household expenses, and household size. They must recertify on a regular basis, and notify the state if there are changes in their status. The benefits cover only some of their nutritional needs.

The average SNAP benefit works out to about \$1.40 per person, per meal. You can figure out what that means for a mom with two kids or two seniors living together. And while every benefit is decided based on the household size, income, and expenses, you should also know that the minimum SNAP benefit is \$15 a month. And there are tens of thousands of Marylanders who do in fact receive the minimum benefit.

You cannot use federal nutrition benefits to purchase non-food items. You can't purchase tampons, although you might need them. You can't purchase diapers, although they may be needed. You also can't buy aspirin – no matter how much that might be needed.

There are also food items that you cannot purchase. You may buy a frozen chicken, but you cannot buy a "hot" rotisserie chicken. You can buy frozen pizza, but not hot pizza. Federal rules are very strict about what you can and cannot purchase.

You can also not purchase bags. In talking with some policymakers, there is some doubt about the scenario I often use, which goes like this: a mom and a daughter go to the store, purchase eggs, milk, tuna fish, and apples using WIC benefits. If they didn't

bring a bag to the store with them, and they don't have cash, they will carry their groceries home in their arms. Paying a bag fee may be small change to many of the people in this room, but it is more than small change to those experiencing poverty.

I have done a canvas of other jurisdictions who have enacted bag ban and bag fee policies, while mitigating the impact on low-income consumers. I offer these successful models which have already been implemented (with the exception of New York state which goes into effect in ten days).

Christine Wong, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at Northwest Harvest wrote to me about the city of Seattle's adoption of a plastic bag ban that includes an exemption for SNAP and WIC.

"Both the city of Seattle and the State of Washington acknowledge that without some sort of exemption, low-income SNAP and WIC users were going to face disparate challenges with mandatory bag fees: without an exemption, fees would be deducted from the limited resources that could otherwise be spent on food. Sponsors of the city's ordinance offered a solution that worked within the existing SNAP retailer EBT and WIC voucher systems which have been replicated in bill language for statewide legislation. As our communities continue to work for a cleaner environment, we aren't doing so in a way that ignores the reality that low-income residents aren't disproportionately impacted."

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, New York State will begin the plastic bag ban which was enacted last year, and their 2.7 million SNAP recipients will be exempt from bag fees, as well as their WIC recipients.

In 2014, California enacted a plastic bag ban, also with exemptions for SNAP (known as CalFresh in that state) and WIC.

There are over 4 million SNAP recipients in the state of California. Jess Bartholow of the Western Center on Law and Policy, wrote to me that:

“In 2014, California passed a plastic bag ban statewide. Western Center on Law and Poverty supported that legislation with an amendment we drafted to prevent the replacement bag fee from being charged to people paying with an Electronic Benefit Transfer Card or with a Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program voucher. This bill replaced a confusing patchwork of rules in more than 120 municipalities throughout the state that passed local ordinances to ban single-use plastic bags and require a fee for a replacement bags. Some of the local ordinances prevented fees to be charged to recipients, some did not. SB 270 uniformly exempted EBT and voucher users from the fees, while also encouraging reduced use of single-use bags which contribute to pollution and waste that harm all Californians, but low-income communities the most due to their close vicinity to consumer and transit hubs. Since the implementation of this rule, all municipalities with a plastic bag ban in practice have exempted EBT and voucher users from the fee and we have had no complaints from low-income Californians or their advocates about the ban and how it works. We recognize that the fee exemption policy in SB 270 is not complete, because approximately 25 percent of low-income, California families eligible for SNAP do not receive it. Still, this policy has struck a balance between preventing harm to new costs to low-income community members and supporting



necessary changes in our food economy to reduce waste and support sustainable practices that, in the end, will benefit low-income communities the most.”

Chicago also included an exemption when enacting their ban. Kimberly Drew, Legislative Advocacy Director at the Heartland Alliance in Chicago wrote to me that

"Chicago knows that in low-income communities – where people rely on WIC and SNAP to help feed themselves and their families - bag fees were problematic. The City Council addressed this with a narrowly crafted exemption for people who receive food assistance. When we combine environmental justice with economic justice, we take important steps to advance equity and strengthen our communities.”

Joel McClurg of End Hunger Colorado communicated with me that

“We absolutely empathize with the good intention of local ordinances and legislation for plastic bag fees. As with all policy, however, it is important to be mindful of the unintended consequences, especially as they relate to marginalized populations. In this particular instance, the city of Denver wanted to be cognizant of barriers to self-sufficiency and well-being that such an ordinance could have on people with low incomes.

It is not infrequent that a family on WIC or SNAP finds itself in a position where the balance on its EBT card is literally the only available money it has to purchase food

when costs for things like housing and other essentials are considered. Even a meager plastic bag fee on these households will undeniably result in the occasional scenario where a family finds itself in an embarrassing situation at a checkout where it is unable to afford plastic bags for a few groceries. Anti-hunger advocates and federal program administrators have worked hard to decrease stigma around the programs to maintain dignity for people with low incomes who make use of these benefit programs, and these bag fees can create an unintended financial barrier to food access by creating uncomfortable circumstances for families who simply want to buy groceries.

Research has also shown that the impact of plastic bags on the environment is greatly decreased if the bags are reused, such as in the form of wastebasket liners. Consumers with low-incomes are incredibly savvy when it comes to stretching their dollars, and it is safe to presume that the majority of them will reuse their plastic bags, thereby attenuating their environmental effect. Therefore, by waiving plastic bag fees for households participating in federal nutrition assistance programs, it is fairly safe to assume that the negative impact on our environment will be negligible.

This is important as we acknowledge that Americans with low incomes are possibly the most affected by the environment since they find themselves more commonly exposed to pollution and are less likely to have access to health care. Therefore, in Denver, we felt that bag fees were a good solution for reducing consumer waste,

but that the negative environmental impact of waiving the bag fee for Coloradans with low incomes was minimal when considering the unintentional barrier to food access, as well as the likelihood that the bags would be reused. This is why the City of Denver opted to waive the fee for all participants of federal nutrition programs who use their EBT card at local stores.”

The challenges that low-income Marylanders will face because of this proposal – if unamended – will be real. When Providence, Rhode Island enacted a plastic bag ban with a fee for paper bags, the Racial Environment and Justice Committee wrote to the city and said, “plastic bags are bad, but introducing legislation that negatively impacts poor people is not a solution.” They also pointed out that:

- “This policy assumes that everyone has equal access to reusable bags. That is not the case for low-income families who do not drive a car. Many community members will struggle to pay the fee (e.g., public transit riders, especially those shopping for larger families and generally needing more bags).
- This is an imposition of yet another financial burden by the government, but not one that helps to meet basic needs.
- Corporations have a role to play in improving our city. This policy places the burden of resolving this issue solely on the shoulders of consumers.”

I am aware Mr. Chairman, that Maryland is a sovereign state, and need not follow what other jurisdictions have done. However, I offer these as concrete examples of other jurisdictions that have acknowledged the challenges faced by low-income residents and

have sought to address them. I am hoping that Maryland will thoughtfully consider other options before imposing fees on our state's poorest residents.

Mr. Chairman, it is my contention that a simple exemption for those using public benefits would be best. However, I have spoken to several Members of the legislature – including the sponsors – to let them know that I am open to other options as well. Instituting a “Maryland Bag Fund” which would receive part of the bag fee for refunding to stores that have high bag costs is one such an idea. There may be others, and I am open to discussing them.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to responding to any questions.

THE END

**AFPA\_UNF\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Craig, Jordan

Position: UNF



**American  
Forest & Paper  
Association**

February 20, 2020

Senator Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senator Brian Feldman, Vice Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
The Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Letter on Senate Bill 313– Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), we appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with legislation under consideration by your Committee, Senate Bill 313, the “Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act.” This bill seeks to ban plastic bags while requiring grocery, retail sales and restaurant establishments collect and retain a 10 cent fee for ‘durable bags’ or any bags (paper, plastic, cloth) other than plastic bags under 4mils distributed at the point of sale.

AF&PA serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry’s sustainability initiative - Better Practices, Better Planet 2020. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 4 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures nearly \$300 billion in products annually, and employs approximately 950,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$55 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states.

In Maryland, the forest products industry employs over 6,000 individuals in 44 manufacturing facilities, with an annual payroll of over \$321 million.

We believe that paper bags should be excluded from measures to ban or tax retail bags on grounds that they wrongfully penalize an environmentally friendly product that is highly recycled, recyclable, compostable and reusable. Paper and paper-based packaging, such as carryout bags, are commonly made with recycled content. The bill unfairly targets paper products, implying they are part of the environmental problem.

### The Paper Industry and the Environment

Paper bags are locally produced, reusable, sustainable and the only grocery bag that consumers can recycle at home in their curbside bin. Every year since 2009, the U.S. paper recovery for recycling rate has met or exceeded 63 percent. And in 2018, 68.1 percent of all paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. Paper is a renewable, recyclable and biodegradable resource, with attributes that are hard to find in synthetic, fossil-fuel based materials.

Consumers who are sensitive to environmental concerns choose paper bags. Responding to consumer demands, many retailers have already voluntarily transitioned to paper. Not only are paper bags made from recycled paper, they are highly recycled themselves and are a fixture in community recycling programs throughout the state and the rest of the country.

AF&PA's sustainability initiative — Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 — comprises one of the most extensive quantifiable sets of sustainability goals for a U.S. manufacturing industry and is the latest example of our members' proactive commitment to the long-term success of our industry, our communities and our environment. We have long been responsible stewards of our planet's resources. We are proud to report that our members have already achieved the greenhouse gas reduction and workplace safety goals. Our member companies have also collectively made significant progress in each of the following goals: increasing paper recovery for recycling; improving energy efficiency; promoting sustainable forestry practices; and reducing water use.

Paper products keep lands forested, store carbon, are natural and biodegradable, support our nation's recycling system, and ultimately can provide carbon-neutral energy. Thanks in part to the paper products industry providing private sector incentives to landowners, every region of the country has positive forest growth.

### Maintaining Paper Bags as a Free Option for Consumers

This bill will be regressive, increasing the cost of basic necessities for all citizens and disproportionately impacting those who are low-income. Maryland has citizens who rely on public transit and cannot practically expect to bring reusable bags every time they go to a retailer. Some consumers cannot afford to pay an additional cost for reusable bags while they struggle to cover the increasing cost of basic needs and require a packaging option to protect their purchases from damage and contamination.

Offering a paper bag free of charge at the point of purchase is a natural part of customer service. Many services are included in the price of the goods consumers already buy, such as rent, electricity, insurance and employee wages. Once there is an obligation to pay taxes for bags, those taxes are likely to increase over time.

Following passage of a plastic bag ban in New York, questions have been raised related to the availability of paper bags and whether that should impact legislation governing the product.

This is red herring to distract policymakers with questions centered around supply. The real question should be whether there should be a government mandated fee on paper bags which are recyclable, compostable, reusable and come from a renewable resource. Retailers and grocers are free to charge for bags, or not offer them at all. AF&PA does not make marketplace predictions on the availability of paper products as this is an individual company decision, just as it is each retailer or grocer's decision whether to give out paper bags and whether to charge a fee for them.

Information summarizing other state bag laws was requested by Delegates in the House and is available to review in the Appendix below.

We encourage the Committee to avoid measures that will penalize the use of paper. We look forward to continuing our work with the state of Maryland. Please feel free to contact Abigail Sztejn, Director, Government Affairs, AF&PA at (202) 463-2596 or [abigail\\_sztejn@afandpa.org](mailto:abigail_sztejn@afandpa.org) for further information.

Sincerely,

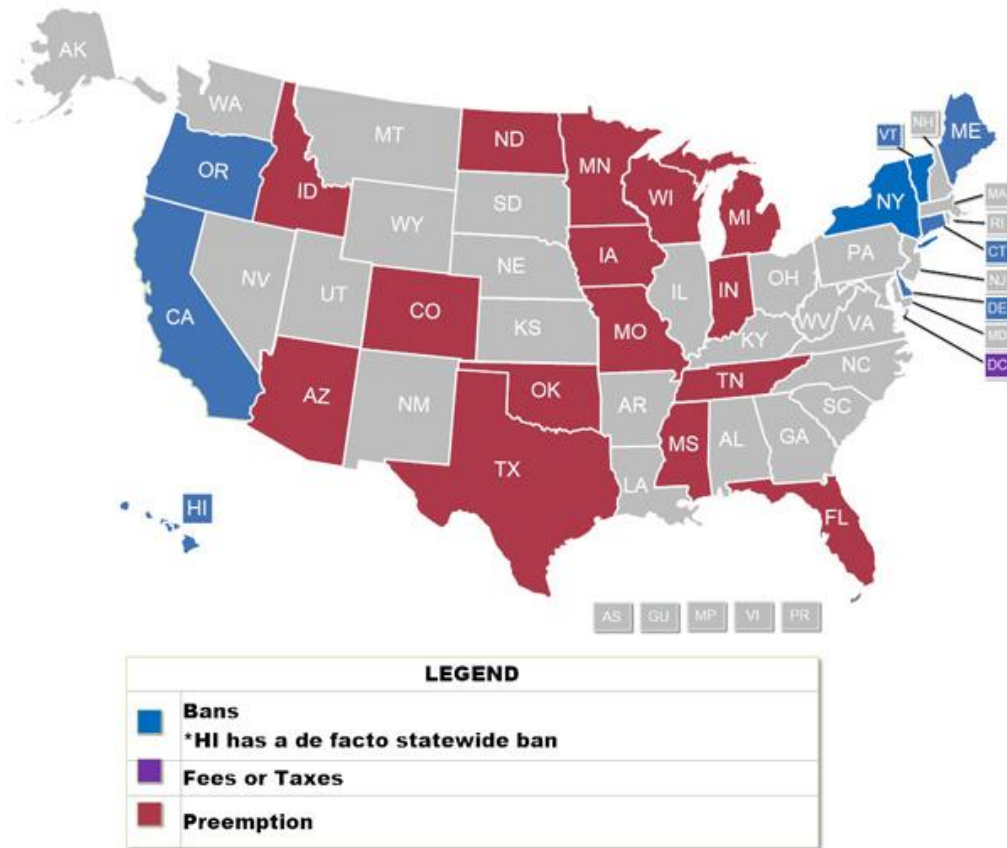


Elizabeth Bartheld  
Vice President, Government and Industry Affairs  
American Forest & Paper Association



# Appendix

## States with Enacted Plastic Bag Legislation (NCSL.org)



### Statewide Bag Ban Language

State	Impact to Paper Bags	Impact to Plastic Bags
CA	10 cent fee, grocers keep the fee	Ban on plastic under 2.25mil
VT	10 cent fee to grocers, retailers and restaurants	Ban on plastic without stitched handles
ME	5 cent fee retained by grocer/retailer/restaurant	Ban on plastic under 4mil, machine washable or can be disinfected regularly
OR	5 cent fee, grocer/retailers/restaurants keep the fee	Ban on plastic under 4mil
HI	Differs between islands	Differs between islands
CT	No impact	10 cent fee until 2021, then ban under 4mil
DE	No impact	Ban on plastic under 2.25mil, large retailers only
NY	Counties may opt in for a 5 cent fee; fee split by the county and state, grocery only	Ban on plastic bags under 10mils

**ARPBA\_UNF\_Sb313**

Uploaded by: Johnson, Rob

Position: UNF

February 20, 2020

Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Position on SB 313

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. On behalf of the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance (ARPBA), which represents our country's plastic bag manufacturers, recyclers, and their employees (including 160 right here in Maryland), I'd like to address the industry's concerns with SB 313 – legislation that would ban single-use plastic bags statewide – and offer an alternative approach.

First of all, we commend the General Assembly for making sustainability and plastic waste reduction a priority. Please make no mistake: these issues are of the utmost importance to us, as well. Without a sustainable product, we don't have a sustainable business, which is a primary reason why our members are committed to recycling and sustainable use of their products. As the committee works through this process, our hope is that you consider the data, the potential impact on Maryland consumers, and the bag ban laws implemented around the United States and around the world so that you can make informed decisions on how to move forward.

Carryout bag laws can take various forms, but there are jurisdictions in and around Maryland that have implemented a model for dramatically reducing bag usage in a much better way than what is currently proposed in SB 313. Studies that have examined the effectiveness of carryout bag laws have determined that bag fees are better than bans. For example, research from the University of California, Berkeley found that a small fee for bags is just as effective as a ban when it comes to encouraging use of reusable bags.<sup>1</sup> However, a fee offers flexibility for people who reuse plastic bags for garbage disposal or dog walking. Montgomery County as well as the District of Columbia have successfully implemented a carryout bag fee. Economic research found that Montgomery County's bag fee caused disposable bag usage to decline by 42 percentage points after the tax was implemented. Additionally, customers who continued to use disposable bags after the tax used fewer bags per trip. Assuming that each household in Montgomery County shops once per week, these effects would imply a reduction of over 18 million disposable bags per year.<sup>2</sup>

According to surveys done by the D.C. Department of Energy & Environment six months after the fee took effect, 75% of residents reduced their disposable bag usage, and a majority of businesses reduced their disposable bag distribution by at least 50%. The Alice Ferguson Foundation, which monitors trash in District waterways, reported a 72% reduction in the number of bags found during its stream clean-up events.<sup>3</sup> Even the Surfrider Foundation has said that plastic prohibition isn't the most impactful element of the policies – fees are what prompt shoppers to bring their own bags.

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<sup>1</sup> Taylor, Rebecca and Villas-Boars, Sofia B., "[Bans versus Fees: Disposable Carryout Bag Policies and Bag Usage](#)" (2015).

<sup>2</sup> Homonoff, Tatiana A. 2018. "[Can Small Incentives Have Large Effects? The Impact of Taxes versus Bonuses on Disposable Bag Use](#)" (2018). American Economic Journal: Economic Policy.

<sup>3</sup> D.C. Department of Energy & Environment, "[Purpose and Impact of the Bag Law.](#)"

As an additional example of the effectiveness of fees versus bans, the city of Chicago repealed their plastic bag ban in November 2016 and replaced it with a carryout bag fee, which proved to be more successful.<sup>4</sup> After the plastic bag ban had taken effect, politicians and environmental groups wanted more impact, and retailers were frustrated at the increased cost of bagging supplies. A carryout fee proved to be the right solution.

Under the current version of SB 313, counties could no longer collect the revenue from bag fees. Montgomery County collects about \$2.5 million annually, which goes toward stormwater management and water quality improvements. Howard County will implement a plastic bag fee later this year, and the projected \$700,000 in revenue will be used on environmental education initiatives, litter clean-ups, and programs to make reusable bags available to low-income communities. Whether revenue from a statewide bag fee would stay with the counties or go to the state, this income could be used to further Maryland's sustainability goals and have a greater impact on litter, waste, and climate change.

We encourage the Maryland General Assembly to think outside the “bag ban” box toward better-tested solutions that will have a more influence in the Old Line State. As you work through this process, we hope you keep the following points in mind:

**Recycling is a key priority for plastic bag manufacturers, and it is working.**

At many grocery stores and major retail chains, you will find a bin for recycling plastic bags and other types of plastic wraps and films. Our members – the companies who make plastic bags – established early on that they did not want to see their products going directly to the landfill after one use, so they invented a way to recycle plastic bags. After plastic bags are returned to grocery and retail stores, ARPBA members and other companies buy those plastic bags back from the retailer (along with other polyethylene wraps and films) and transport them to recycling facilities where they are eventually turned into new bags, railroad ties, composite lumber, asphalt, and much more. Today, ARPBA members are not only in the manufacturing business but also in the recycling business, recycling hundreds of millions of pounds of plastic bags and film each year.

Recycling plastic bags and film is a core part of our business – and it works. While we often hear that recycling is ineffective because China and other countries stopped taking our waste and recycling, this doesn't apply to plastic bags and film. In 2017, 81% of plastic bags and film returned for recycling at U.S. retail stores were reclaimed by U.S. and Canadian recyclers.<sup>5</sup> This number (the most recent one we have) is from a time when China was still taking our recycling as their “National Sword” policy started in 2018. Today, it's safe to assume that an even greater percentage of plastic bags and film are being reclaimed by U.S. and Canadian recyclers.

**Plastic bags are the most sustainable option at the checkout counter – as long as they are disposed of properly.**

Every life cycle assessment of carryout bags has found that plastic is the best option at the checkout counter in terms of sustainability and resource efficiency. For example, Recyc-Québec, a government recycling agency based in Canada, released a study in December 2017, which found that the overall lifecycle of the plastic bag—from its production to the end of its life—has far less environmental impact compared with other bags.<sup>6</sup> In fact, Recyc- Québec specifically recommends against using a cotton bag

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<sup>4</sup> POLITICO, “[How Behavioral Science Solved Chicago's Plastic Bag Problem](#)” (2019).

<sup>5</sup> More Recycling for the American Chemistry Council, “[2017 National Post-Consumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report](#)” (2019).

<sup>6</sup> RECYC-QUÉBEC, “[Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags](#)” (2017).

due to its significant carbon footprint, requiring between 100 and 2,954 uses for its environmental impact to be equivalent to the environmental impacts of the conventional plastic bag.

Additionally, in a February 2018 study, Denmark’s Environmental Protection Agency concluded that lightweight plastic carrier bags provide “the absolute best environmental performance.”<sup>7</sup> Also, it is important to note that plastic bags are made from a byproduct of natural gas refining (not oil). This is the same natural gas used to heat homes and cook with. Without turning this byproduct into plastic bags, it would otherwise have to be burned off, which would pollute the air with greenhouse gases.

**Plastic bags make up a tiny percentage of both municipal solid waste and litter. Banning them will not have a meaningful impact on either category.**

Many believe that plastic retail bags are filling up landfills, but this simply isn’t true. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data shows that plastic “bags and sacks” make up 0.3% of the nation’s municipal solid waste.<sup>8</sup> Plastic retail bags are a fraction of this number. Additionally, the most recent statewide litter study in the United States, commissioned by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council and funded by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, found that branded plastic retail bags make up 0.8% of litter in New Jersey.<sup>9</sup> We never want to see any of our products disposed of improperly, but with such a small share of litter and waste derived from bags, a bag ban simply won’t provide a meaningful improvement in either category.

**Plastic bags are reused at high rates. Banning them means that people will need to buy products that use more plastic and have a greater carbon footprint.**

According to Recyc- Québec, nearly 78% of people reuse their “single-use” plastic bags, most often as a small trash can liner or to pick up pet waste. Research from the University of Sydney found that after California’s plastic bag ban, the sales of thicker, more resource-intensive plastic trash bags skyrocketed.<sup>10</sup> Once plastic bags were banned, Californians started buying trash bags for their everyday use instead of reusing the shopping bags that they were previously getting at no charge. Coupled with an increase in paper bag usage, the research found that California’s plastic bag ban increased in carbon emissions.

**SB 313 all but guarantees that almost every bag used in Maryland will be made overseas.**

The vast majority of conventional plastic retail bags are manufactured domestically (including right here in Maryland), supporting tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs. In Howard County, there are 160 Marylanders who work at a facility that makes plastic retail bags. However, the vast majority of reusable bags greater than 4 mils in thickness, such as the totes available for \$1-2 at the grocery store checkout counter, are made overseas – primarily in China, Vietnam, and other Southeast Asian countries.

**SB 313 will exacerbate the nationwide paper bag shortage.**

There are concerns that a plastic bag ban in Maryland would mean that there won’t be *any* carryout bags in the state. Due to many bag bans taking effect around the country as well as supply chain disruptions in China caused by the coronavirus, the reusable bag market is already stretched extremely thin. In addition,

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Environment and Food in Denmark, “[Life Cycle Assessment of grocery carrier bags](#)” (2018). The Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>8</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, “[Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2016 and 2017 Tables and Figures](#)” (2019).

<sup>9</sup> New Jersey Clean Communities Council, Inc. by Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, “[2018 New Jersey Litter Study](#)” (2018).

<sup>10</sup> Taylor, Rebecca, “[Bag 'Leakage': The Effect of Disposable Carryout Bag Regulations on Unregulated Bags](#)” (2018).

there is no more capacity for paper bag manufacturing in North America. This month, an independent research firm concluded that once New York's plastic bag takes effect in March, there will be a paper bag shortage of 1.1-3.4 billion paper bags *just in New York*.<sup>11</sup> This number doesn't reflect other states and localities that will need paper bags in the coming months. We hope that Maryland legislators take this information into consideration before passing policies that would further impact these markets.

**SB 313 goes much farther than the majority of plastic bag regulations around the country and around the world.**

California established the first statewide definition in the United States for a reusable plastic film bag: 2.25 mils in thickness and capable of 125 or more uses carrying 22 or more pounds over a distance of at least 175 feet. Last year, Delaware adopted the same standard in their single-use plastic bag ban. However, California's plastic bag ban is actually one of the stricter laws in the world, going much farther than most other countries.

Europe is known for their regulations of single-use plastic products, and they are often cited as a model for banning plastic bags and other items. The European Union placed restrictions on single-use plastic bags in 2015 with Directive (EU) 2015/720.<sup>12</sup> This law directed EU member states to reduce consumption of plastic bags less than 50 microns, which is 1.9685 mils. Maryland is banning all plastic bags less than 4 mils, which means the bags will be twice as thick as the kind used in California and Europe. Simply put, a 4-mil standard increases the amount of plastic being produced and used with no additional performance benefits.

**Overall, SB 313 misses the mark on sustainability, but there is a path forward for Maryland that achieves single-use plastic reduction while limiting unintended consequences.**

We would welcome the opportunity to provide more details about this issue, discuss potential policy solutions, and do our part to help Maryland achieve its sustainability goals. The ARPBA stands ready to work with you on solutions that protect the state's unique environment, increase recycling, decrease litter and waste, and reduce marine debris without placing a burden on residents or the business community or moving manufacturing jobs overseas. As you work through this process, please consider us a resource, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Matt Seaholm  
Executive Director, American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance

CC: Hon. Malcolm Augustine,  
Hon. Pamela Beidle  
Hon. Joanne Benson  
Hon. Antonio Hayes  
Hon. Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

Hon. J.B. Jennings  
Hon. Katherine Klausmeier  
Hon. Benjamin F. Kramer  
Hon. Edward R. Reilly

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<sup>11</sup> Freedonia Custom Research, "[New York Retail Bags Market Assessment](#)" (2020).

<sup>12</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2015/720](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags.





## **Advance Polybag, Inc.**

6935 San Tomas Rd  
Elkridge MD, 21075  
(410) 796-8551 • FAX: (410) 796-4996

February 20, 2020

Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 313 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 160 Marylanders who manufacture plastic retail bags at the Advance Polybag, Inc (API) facility in Howard County.

At API, sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. As a manufacturer of plastic retail bags, we recognize our responsibility to promote recycling and reduce the number of bags destined for the landfill. However, we believe that SB 313 isn't the right way to go. This legislation will lead to unintended consequences and impact our ability to run a business in Maryland that employs 160 hardworking individuals.

While well intentioned, SB 313 will push consumers to alternatives that are more environmentally damaging, such as thicker plastic bags or more resource-intensive cotton or paper bags. Study after study has found the traditional plastic carryout bag to be the best option at the checkout counter in terms of sustainability and resource efficiency. Alternative products emit significantly more greenhouse gases throughout their lifecycle and, in the case of many reusable bags, aren't recyclable at all.

API has been at the forefront of plastic bag and film recycling, educating our customers on the responsible use of plastic bags made right here in Maryland. While typically not accepted in curbside or municipal recycling programs, plastic bags (and other polyethylene wraps and films) are 100% recyclable when dropped off at major retailers and grocery store. These bags are eventually recycled into new bags, composite lumber used in decking and outdoor furniture, and much more.

Instead of banning products made right here in Maryland, we would like to work directly with lawmakers and other stakeholders to increase education related to the highly successful retailer take-back programs that are addressing the issues related to plastic bag disposal around the country. As you work through this process, we are happy to be a resource, so please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Michael Thom  
Operations Manager, Advance Polybag Inc

CC: Members of the Finance Committee



## **U.S. Plastic Bag Manufacturers Sign Sustainability Commitment, Set Goal of 95 Percent of Bags Reused or Recycled by 2025**

**January 30, 2019** – U.S. plastic bag manufacturers and recyclers today signed a wide-ranging sustainability commitment for the industry and renamed their coalition the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance (ARPBA). The agreement by ARPBA members includes a target that 95 percent of plastic retail bags be reused or recycled by 2025.

“Today, we are all proud to come together to commit to specific industry-wide sustainability goals. Our alliance was founded by U.S. manufacturers who saw the benefits in plastic bag recycling and invested heavily in the infrastructure and education needed to make it a reality. Our members now recycle hundreds of millions of pounds of bags and plastic films each year, and each of us are undertaking many other efforts to promote sustainable bag use,” said Gary Alstott, chairman of the ARPBA and senior vice president at Novolex.

“As a result of our industry’s efforts to build recycling infrastructure, nearly all Americans can now conveniently bring plastic bags and other plastic films back to the grocery store to be recycled into new products. We are proud of the progress we have made and energized to do even more. The change to the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance best reflects our members’ efforts as a coalition and helps us continue to share the success story of plastic bag recycling,” said Matt Seaholm, executive director of the ARPBA.

With the current reuse rate of plastic grocery bags at [about 78 percent](#) and the recycle rate around [12 percent](#), nearly 90 percent of bags are currently reused or recycled. In addition to efforts that encourage consumers to reuse bags and working with retailers to place consistent recycling language on all U.S.-made bags, members will increase the amount of recycled content in their products to achieve today’s pledge of a 95 percent reuse and recycle rate by 2025. The members committed to achieving the following minimum recycled content in plastic retail bags:

- **2021 – All bags will have 10% recycled content**
- **2023 – All bags will have 15% recycled content**
- **2025 – All bags will have 20% recycled content**

### **About the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance (ARPBA)**

The American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance (ARPBA) represents the U.S. plastic bag manufacturing and recycling industry, which employs thousands of workers across the United States. Founded in 2005, the coalition proactively promotes product lines and leads numerous public policy initiatives that serve as the frontline defense against plastic bag bans and taxes nationwide. With the support of the industry’s workers, the ARPBA promotes American-made plastic products that are the smartest, most environmentally friendly choice at the checkout counter for both retailers and consumers.





# New York Retail Bags Market Assessment

Final Report

February 3, 2020

Report Prepared on Behalf of ARPBA

New York Retail Bags Market Assessment

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# Introduction

## New York Retail Bags Market Assessment – Introduction

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### *Scope and Definitions*

- **Geography:** New York
- **Products:**
  - Retail bags\*
    - Plastic (including single-use, reusable polypropylene, reusable  $\geq 2.25$  mil or thicker plastic)
    - Paper
- **Time Series:**
  - Market Size Analysis:
    - 2019 – previous 12 months ending March 1, 2020
    - 2020 – 12 months starting March 1, 2020
  - Supply Analysis: Current
- **Units:** number of units

\*Does not include bag-on-roll applications (such as deli and meat bags) or foodservice/takeout bags and some institutional applications (such as hospitals with gift shops or cafes)

## Approach and Method

- Freedonia conducted primary and secondary research in order to gather data for analysis.
  - Secondary sources were utilized to establish a set of baseline assumptions and estimates. Sources included:
    - Current Freedonia industry studies such as *Retail Bags* and *Specialty Films*
    - Freedonia consensus economic forecasts
    - Industry and trade publications/associations
    - Local and national press
    - Marketing literature and press releases
    - Investment analyst presentations
    - Company financial filings
  - Discussion guides were developed and employed for interviews across industry constituent groups.
    - Primary research was aimed at gathering qualitative insights as well as challenging/validating quantitative assumptions and estimates developed during the course of the study.
- Annual growth throughout this report is expressed in compounded annual growth rates (CAGR) calculated between two selected years.
- All demand figures are reported in units unless otherwise noted.
- Segmented estimates may not add to totals shown due to rounding.
- Freedonia interviewed more than 10 companies across all industry constituent groups in order to gather broad perspectives and particular data points on the New York retail bag market in each product category within the scope of the assessment.
- The following industry constituent groups were interviewed during the course of the project:
  - Paper bag suppliers
  - Retailers
  - Distributors
  - Paper bag machinery manufacturers
- During the course of the project, Freedonia disclosed that this study was being conducted on behalf of the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance.

## Section I: Executive Summary

## *Despite uncertain adoption rates for reusable bags, New York's plastic bag ban will generate a paper bag shortage of 1.1-3.4 billion units.*

- New York State has implemented a ban on essentially all carryout plastic bags set to begin March 1, 2020, including anything less than 10 mils thick. Freedonia assessed the 2020 market supply and demand for carryout bags in New York State and provided discussion of potential issues caused by the ban, particularly in the retail segment. In addition to paper bag demand, Freedonia also provided an assessment of reusable polypropylene bags.
- While there is a high degree of uncertainty about how many consumers will switch to reusable bags (rather than single-use paper) after the ban is implemented, a shortage of paper bags will occur in New York even in the most optimistic scenarios.
- The magnitude of the anticipated shortage of paper bags in New York ranges between approximately 1.1 billion bags (in Freedonia's low case scenario) to nearly 3.4 billion bags (in Freedonia's base/high case scenario). While in the low case, it is presumed that approximately 80% of bag unit demand will switch to reusable options after the ban, the base/high case estimates the impact of only 15% of bag unit demand switching to reusables.
- Our analysis examines the impact of New York's ban in isolation from evolving legislative efforts in other states. Oregon implemented a plastic bag ban in early January 2020, and four additional states (Vermont, Delaware, Connecticut and Maine) have approved plastic bans and will implement them during 2020 and 2021. These additional anticipated plastic bag bans, when implemented, will create additional pressure on the supply of paper bags beyond the estimates described in this report.

## *All plausible plastic bag replacement scenarios indicate significant paper bag shortages following implementation of the ban.*

Paper Bags/Totes % Share	0/100	10/90	<b>20/80</b>	30/70	<b>50/50</b>	70/30	<b>85/15</b>
After Ban Paper Bags Demand	0	2,636	2,985	3,335	4,034	4,732	5,257
After Ban Totes Demand	280	257	235	212	167	122	89
2019 NY Paper Bag Demand	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898
Paper Bag Production Capacity (all NA)	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700
<i>paper bag production utilization (%)</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Paper Bag Shortage from 2019 Demand</b>	--	<b>(738)</b>	<b>(1,087)</b>	<b>(1,436)</b>	<b>(2,135)</b>	<b>(2,834)</b>	<b>(3,358)</b>

Source: Freedonia Custom Research

- Overall, it is difficult to predict with certainty how the retail bag market in New York will evolve following the ban.
- The table above outlines different paper bag shortage scenarios under the transition from plastic bags banned in New York as of March 1, 2020, to paper and polypropylene tote alternatives. The bolded scenarios, 20/80, 50/50 and 85/15, correspond to the low, mid and base cases described earlier.
- With the exception of a highly unlikely shift to all totes, all other scenarios point to a severe paper bag shortage in the state of New York ranging from 738 million to 3.4 billion.
- In addition, currently the total US market for reusable PP bags is around 930 million. In some cases, new demand for reusable bags would be nearly one-third of the current total. Increases in reusable bag demand will require significant increases in imports of bags, and questions exist around immediate supply of reusable PP bags.

## Section II: Market Size Assessment

### Section II: Market Size Assessment – Key Findings

*In nearly all scenarios, by banning all plastic retail bags under 10 mils, there likely will be a shortfall of paper bags to meet New York demand.*

- In the base/high case scenario, it is estimated that 80+% of users will prefer and therefore demand additional paper bags. A 2010 Chico State study indicated that in San Francisco, when a similar ban went into effect, users clearly preferred paper bags to reusable alternatives and increased demand for paper bags in the city significantly.
  - The high case creates a significant shortage of paper bags (nearly 3.5 billion units) based on current North American supply constraints. It is likely the current supply chain will not be able to adapt quickly enough, or be willing to source additional paper bags from overseas due to the increased expense and unknowns of international suppliers.
  - Even in the high case, there will also be a significant increase in reusable bags (34 million) as the total number of needed bags to carry all store trips will not all be switched to paper. In this case, the percent of overall bag trip demand from reusable bags is expected to nearly double from 10-15% to over 20%.
- In the mid-case scenario, it is estimated that bag trips are evenly split between paper and reusable polypropylene bags. The case shows an additional demand of over 2 billion paper bags and 112 million reusable PP bags.
  - As the majority of reusable PP bags are currently sourced from China and have a six to eight week lead time, delivery could be delayed further given the current shutdown in Chinese production due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.
- The low case scenario shows the least impact on paper bags, as it is assumed most retailers are pushing customers toward reusable bags. In the low case scenario, it is assumed 80% of customers convert to reusable bags, which would require an additional 180 million reusable PP bags to enter the NY market. In addition, even in the low case scenario, an additional 1 billion paper bags will be required; however, current production capacities cannot support such an increase. Also, it is unlikely that paper bag converters, distributors and retailers will be able to shift shipments of paper bags in other states that currently allow plastic to NY to cover the shortfall in the short term. A shift in shipments likely will take several months to a year; however, other states would then be relying more on plastic bags.
- Other assumptions included in the analysis include 17 uses of reusable bags prior to replacement, 6.7 reusable bags are used per trip, over 8 paper bags are used per trip, and nearly 10 single-use plastic bags are used per trip.

*Retail bag demand in New York is forecast to decrease 7.8% in 2020 under the base case, with the new ban vastly reducing the use of plastic bags.*

Table II-1: New York – Retail Bags Base Case (million units)			
Item	2019	2020	CAGR 20/19
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,276</b>	<b>5,785</b>	-7.8%
Plastic	4,378	529	-87.9%
Single-Use	3,935	394	-90.0%
Reusable	442	135	-69.4%
Polypropylene	55	89	61.1%
Other Reusable	387	46	-88.0%
Paper	1,898	5,257	176.9%
<b>Paper Shortage</b>		<b>(3,358)</b>	

\*Base case assumes paper bags will replace 85% of the plastic demand, polypropylene totes will replace the remaining 15%

\*All scenarios assume 17.3 reuses per tote

\*2019 - previous 12 months ending March 1, 2020; 2020 – 12 months starting March 1, 2020

- Total demand for retail bags in New York is projected to decline in 2020, with the state attempting to curtail the use of disposable plastics through a ban on single-use plastic bags and reusable plastic bags under 10 mils coming into effect on March 1, 2020.
- Because the ban allows for certain items, including frozen foods; sliced or prepared foods; bulk items; newspapers; and prescription drugs, among others, to still be packed using single-use plastic bags, demand for the latter will not disappear altogether, but will still drop precipitously, with the 2020 total estimated at only 10% of the 2019 unit volume.
- Paper bags are expected to capture the bulk of the lost single-use plastic bag volume under the base case scenario. Surveys of consumers in California looking at the impact of similar bans indicate an 80+% replacement rate for single-use plastic in favor of paper bags.

*Paper bags are projected to capture the majority of the single-use plastic volume in the near term, with a shift to totes anticipated further out.*

- Paper bags are expected to be the dominant alternative to single-use plastic in retail settings immediately following the ban, with demand almost tripling versus 2019, but, as supply constraints persist and retailers and consumers adjust to the new reality, totes are seen as likely capturing the majority of the bag volume.
- However, the magnitude of the behavioral change associated with a full-scale transition from single-use to reusable bags cannot be underestimated.
- Demand for reusable polypropylene bags or totes, which meet the thickness requirements stipulated in the ban, is projected to grow 61.1% year-over-year, with many retailers selling and promoting totes at fairly affordable price levels. Only a limited number of localities in New York are opting to introduce a \$.05/unit fee for paper bags to encourage use of reusable alternatives. Some retailers operating in the state, such as Hannaford, Price Chopper and Wegmans among others, are electing to levy the charge themselves to mitigate expenses associated with costlier paper bags (relative to single-use plastic), which is likely to push more consumers to use totes.
- In some cases, retail shoppers already rely on reusable bags to a significant extent, according to several retailers operating in the state.
- Faced with new packaging expenses, some shoppers are likely to forego bags altogether when buying only a few items, further reducing the total retail bag demand in the state.

*Retail bag demand in New York is forecast to decrease 41.7% in 2020 if totes capture most of the lost plastic demand.*

Table II-2: New York – Retail Bags Low Case (million units)			
Item	2019	2020	CAGR 20/19
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,276</b>	<b>3,660</b>	-41.7%
Plastic	4,378	675	-84.6%
Single-Use	3,935	394	-90.0%
Reusable	442	281	-36.4%
Polypropylene	55	235	325.7%
Other Reusable	387	46	-88.0%
Paper	1,898	2,985	57.3%
<b>Paper Shortage</b>		<b>(1,087)</b>	

\*Low case assumes totes will replace 80% of the plastic demand, paper bags will replace the remaining 20%

Source: Freedonia Custom Research

\*2019 - previous 12 months ending March 1, 2020; 2020 – 12 months starting March 1, 2020

- There are some indications that retailers' efforts to transition shoppers to reusable tote bags may be more successful than expected. While some retailers have noted that shoppers may be enticed by the environmentally friendly reputation of plastic reusable bags, it should be noted that plastic totes are not able to be recycled when no longer viable and will still contribute to plastic waste.
- Respondents at several chains have already started the shift to totes in anticipation of the ban and are encouraged by early results. Those market participants estimated the replacement rate after March 1 at 80% totes, 20% paper bags on average.
- The paper bag market in the state of New York would still grow in excess of 50% following the ban, even if totes capture most of the lost plastic demand.
- Even in the low case scenario, paper shortages stemming from the New York ban would be magnified by anti-plastic legislation about to be enacted by other states.

*Retail bag demand in New York is forecast to decrease 26.1% in 2020 if the 2019 market for plastic bags is split equally between paper and totes.*

Table II-3: New York – Retail Bags Mid-Case (million units)			
Item	2019	2020	CAGR 20/19
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,276</b>	<b>4,641</b>	-26.1%
Plastic	4,378	607	-86.1%
Single-Use	3,935	394	-90.0%
Reusable	442	214	-51.6%
Polypropylene	55	167	203.5%
Other Reusable	387	46	-88.0%
Paper	1,898	4,034	112.5%
<b>Paper Shortage</b>		<b>(2,135)</b>	

\*Mid case assumes totes and paper bags will replace equal shares of plastic demand prior to the ban

Source: Freedonia Custom Research

\*2019 - previous 12 months ending March 1, 2020; 2020 – 12 months starting March 1, 2020

- Under the mid-case scenario, demand for paper bags in the state would more than double. Considering the current supply landscape and the absence of spare paper bag production capacity in North America, New York retailers are likely to face significant bag shortages as the result of the ban.
- Similar to the base and low case scenarios outlined earlier, other states' efforts to reduce plastic bag usage and substitute it with paper will worsen the already difficult supply situation faced by retailers in New York.

# Section III: Supply Landscape

Section III: Supply Landscape – Plastic Replacement Scenarios

*All plausible plastic bag replacement scenarios indicate significant paper bag shortages following implementation of the ban.*

Table III-1: New York - Retail Paper Bag Shortage Scenarios (million units)							
Paper Bags/Totes % Share	0/100	10/90	<b>20/80</b>	30/70	<b>50/50</b>	70/30	<b>85/15</b>
New Paper Bags Demand	0	2,636	2,985	3,335	4,034	4,732	5,257
New Totes Demand	280	257	235	212	167	122	89
2019 NY Paper Bag Demand	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898	1,898
Paper Bag Production Capacity (all NA)	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700
<i>paper bag production utilization (%)</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Paper Bag Shortage from 2019 Demand</b>	--	<b>(738)</b>	<b>(1,087)</b>	<b>(1,436)</b>	<b>(2,135)</b>	<b>(2,834)</b>	<b>(3,358)</b>

Source: Freedonia Custom Research

- Overall, it is difficult to predict with certainty how the retail bag market in New York will evolve following the ban.
- The table above outlines different paper bag shortage scenarios under the transition from plastic bags banned in New York as of March 1 to paper and polypropylene tote alternatives. The bolded scenarios, 20/80, 50/50 and 85/15, correspond to the low, mid and base cases described earlier.
- With the exception of a highly unlikely shift to all totes, all other scenarios point to a severe paper bag shortage in the state of New York ranging from 738 million to 3.36 billion.
- In addition, currently the total US market for reusable PP bags is around 930 million. In some cases, new demand for reusable bags would be nearly one-third of the current total. Increases in reusable bag demand will require significant increases in imports of bags, and questions exist around immediate supply of reusable PP bags.



### *Spare paper bag production capacity in North America is not sufficient to address anticipated demand growth in the near term.*

- As it stands currently, there is not enough reserve capacity in North America to meet the expected shortfall in retail paper bag supply. Spare manufacturing capacity, at best, may approach 0.5 billion bags, but is likely less as many machines are old and not able to produce at or above stated nameplate capacity, compared to the expected 3.36 billion in new paper bag demand in New York following the imposition of the ban under the base case scenario. Some market participants believe there is no reserve capacity at all in North America currently.
- State and local legislatures around the country are attempting to address sustainability and reduce the usage of disposable plastic packaging, which will only exacerbate paper bag shortages faced by New York retailers. Five other states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Oregon and Vermont) have already passed legislation that places restrictions on the use of plastic bags.
- New paper bag production facilities take an estimated three to five years to reach full capacity, exacerbating the supply issues faced by New York retailers. New product lines typically take up to 16 months to get up and running.
- Paper bag imports, which currently trail far behind plastic bag shipments in unit terms, can potentially fill some of the gap between the expected demand and the reserve capacity, but are not likely to sufficiently alleviate the shortfall, at least immediately. Switching to imports will also require significant adjustments in the supply chain and the procurement process that cannot be made overnight.
- The low case scenario equates to 1.09 billion additional paper bags needed to meet demand, a volume that is unlikely to be filled in the near term, but potentially addressable toward the end of the year. The mid-case projects 2.14 billion additional paper bags, further increasing the likelihood of severe shortages versus the low case.

### *Retailers' perspectives on the ban's impact differ greatly and could be distorted by store locations. Polypropylene supply disruption further complicates bag sourcing.*

- Retailers in New York differ in their assessment of the magnitude of looming paper bag shortages, with some fairly sanguine about the issue, particularly chains that have been successful in transitioning their customers to reusable formats, while others are encouraged by sufficient supply at the present time, some are uncertain of supply after the ban.
- For shoppers based in suburbs, it could be more feasible to shift to reusable bags since they can be easily transported in the car trunk. Consumers living in urban areas and commuting using public transport may find it difficult to carry reusable bags around. Consequently, perspectives from retailers on the impact of the ban may be skewed by where most of their stores are located.
- It is also important to note that the coronavirus spread has impacted the supply of polypropylene bags from China, with the current delay in shipments possibly lasting for months, which would further increase the already elevated demand for paper bags. US demand for polypropylene totes is estimated at 930 million units, while the low case paper bag scenario estimates that an additional 180 million totes (total of 235 million) would be needed in New York alone, highlighting the difficulty of a speedy transition to totes in the state following the ban.

# Retail Bag Studies

- 2018 New Jersey Litter Survey
- Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags – Recyc-Quebec
- Life Cycle Assessment of grocery carrier bags – Denmark Environmental Protection Agency
- Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2016 and 2017 Tables and Figures – United States Environmental Protection Agency
- NPR Article: Are Plastic Bag Bans Garbage?

# **2018 New Jersey Litter Survey**

A Survey of Litter along  
94 Roadways

Conducted for

**New Jersey  
Clean Communities Council, Inc.**

by

**Environmental Resources Planning, LLC**

**Final Report**

**July 2018**



# 2018 New Jersey Litter Survey

## Appendix A - Litter by Item, Material and Percent

Litter Category	Percent
Vehicle - Rubber	11.0%
Other Paper - Paper	8.9%
Shrink Wrap - Plastic	4.9%
Sweet Snack Packaging - Plastic	4.7%
Water Bottles - Plastic	3.8%
Unbranded Towels/Napkins - Paper	3.0%
Packs, Matches, Lighters - Composite	3.0%
Corrugated Boxes - Paper	2.9%
Block Construction Foam - Foam	2.7%
Cups - Plastic	2.2%
Other Plastics - Hard - Plastic	2.1%
Cup Lids - Plastic	2.1%
Straws/Wrappers - Plastic	2.1%
Glass - Other	1.9%
Vehicle - Composite	1.8%
Unbranded Retail Bags - Plastic	1.7%
Soda Bottles - Plastic	1.7%
Beer Cans - Metal	1.6%
Cups - Paper	1.6%
Cups - Foam	1.6%
Vehicle Debris - Plastic	1.6%
Salty Snack Packaging - Plastic	1.5%
Foil Food Wrappers - Metal	1.4%
Sports Drink Bottles - Plastic	1.4%
Wine/Liquor Bottles - Plastic	1.4%
Clothing - Cloth	1.4%
Construction Materials - Metal	1.3%
Newspaper - Paper	1.2%
Tissues - Paper	1.2%
Soda Cans - Metal	0.9%
Ads/Signs/Cards - Paper	0.9%
Peanut Foam - Foam	0.9%
Beer Bottles - Glass	0.8%
Bottle Caps/Seals - Plastic	0.8%
Branded Retail Bags - Plastic	0.8%
Construction - Plastic	0.8%
Home Articles	0.8%
Broken Bottles - Glass	0.7%
Utensils - Plastic	0.7%
Condiment Packaging - Plastic	0.6%
Sweet Snack Packaging - Paper	0.6%
Zipper Bags - Plastic	0.5%
Construction - Composite	0.5%
Non-Retail Leaf/Trash Bags - Plastic	0.5%
Clamshells - Foam	0.5%

## ***2018 New Jersey Litter Survey***

<b>Litter Category</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Vehicle - Metal	0.5%
Sports Drink Bottles - Metal	0.4%
Toiletries/Drugs - Composite	0.4%
Sweet Snack Packaging - Composite	0.4%
Paper Packing - Paper	0.4%
Plates - Paper	0.4%
Fast Food Carrying Bags - Plastic	0.4%
Cups/Pieces - Plastic	0.4%
Juice Containers - Plastic	0.4%
Large Milk/Juice Containers - Plastic	0.4%
Lottery Tickets - Paper	0.4%
Construction - Wood	0.4%
Beverage Cartons - Paper	0.3%
Fast Food Carrying Bags - Paper	0.3%
Food Jars/Bottles/Cups - Plastic	0.3%
Tea Bottles - Plastic	0.3%
Retail - No Brand - Paper	0.3%
Straws/Wrappers - Paper	0.3%
Food - Composite	0.3%
Food Wrappers - Paper	0.2%
Napkins - Brand - Paper	0.2%
Non-Clothing Fabric - Cloth	0.2%
Clamshells - Plastic	0.2%
Branded Retail Bags - Paper	0.2%
Juice Containers - Aseptic	0.2%
Games/CDs/Recreational Equipment	0.2%
Vehicle Debris - Glass	0.2%
Clamshells - Paper	0.1%
Retail Food/Non-Food/Ice Bags - Plastic	0.1%
Tea Cans - Metal	0.1%
Wine/Liquor Bottles - Glass	0.1%
Boxes - Paper	0.1%
Magazines - Paper	0.1%
Other - Describe	0.1%
Container Lids - Metal	0.1%
Bottle Caps - Metal	0.1%
Aerosol Cans - Metal	0.1%
Six-Pack Rings - Plastic	0.1%
Plates - Foam	0.1%
Food Jars/Bottles/Cups - Metal	0.1%
Construction - Foam	0.1%
Juice Containers - Composite	0.1%
Salty Snack Packaging - Paper	0.1%
Construction Debris - Glass	0.1%
Carpet - Cloth	0.1%
Non-Foam Peanuts	0.1%
Non-Food Containers - Plastic	0.1%

## ***2018 New Jersey Litter Survey***

<b>Litter Category</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Condiment Packaging - Paper	0.0%
Syringes/Drug Paraphernalia - Composite	0.0%
Tea Bottles - Glass	0.0%
Wine/Liquor Cans - Metal	0.0%
Bottle Caps/Seals - Paper	0.0%
Cups - Metal	0.0%
Trays - Paper	0.0%
Books - Paper	0.0%
Soda Bottles - Glass	0.0%
Plates - Plastic	0.0%
Juice Cans - Metal	0.0%
Tea Containers - Aseptic	0.0%
Water Cans - Metal	0.0%
Water Bottles - Glass	0.0%
Beverage Cartons - Composite/Other	0.0%
Cups - Composite/Other	0.0%
Trays - Foam	0.0%
Utensils - Metal	0.0%
Sweet Snack Packaging - Wood (e.g. Popsicle Sticks)	0.0%
Salty Snack Packaging - Composite	0.0%
Food Jars/Bottles/Cups - Glass	0.0%
Food Wrappers/Cartons - Plastic	0.0%
Food Wrappers/Cartons - Paper	0.0%
Air-Filled Plastic Cushions - Plastic	0.0%
Furniture - Wood	0.0%
Food - Plastic	0.0%
Trays - Plastic	0.0%
Reusable - Plastic	0.0%
Non-Retail Leaf/Trash Bags- Paper	0.0%
Large Milk/Juice Containers - Aseptic	0.0%
Appliances - Metal	0.0%
Yard Waste - Wood	0.0%
Ceramic - Other	0.0%



# Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags

RECYC-QUÉBEC December 2017

This document summarizes the results of the environmental and economic life cycle analysis (LCA) of shopping bags ordered by RECYC QUÉBEC and carried out by the Centre international de référence sur le cycle de vie des produits, procédés et services (CIRAIG).










The objective of the study was to evaluate the potential environmental impacts and costs of the different types of shopping bags present in Quebec.

The results of this study provide a scientific, objective and comprehensive basis on which municipalities considering the banning of conventional plastic bags can make an informed decision.

## Bag categories and types

Nine types of shopping bags identified and grouped into two categories were submitted for study.

The environmental profile of the bag life cycle has been established according to four environmental indicators: human health, ecosystem quality, use of fossil resources and abandonment in the environment.

Disposable "or" single-use "bags Designed to be used only once to carry groceries.			Bags known as "reusable" bags Designed to be used for larger shopping. Generally larger and more robust than disposable bags.		
Category	Type of bag	Features	Category	Type of bag	Features
	Conventional plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-density polyethylene (HDPE)</li> <li>Plastics # 2</li> <li>Strapless</li> <li>17 microns</li> <li>Made in Canada</li> </ul>		Woven PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polypropylene (PP)</li> <li>Plastic # 5</li> <li>Made in China</li> </ul>
	Oxodegradable Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-density polyethylene (HDPE)</li> <li>Plastics # 2</li> <li>Strapless</li> <li>17 microns</li> <li>Made in Canada</li> </ul>		Non-woven PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polypropylene (PP)</li> <li>Plastic # 5</li> <li>Made in China</li> <li>Made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic</li> </ul>
	Compostable bioplastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starch-polyester blend</li> <li>Straps</li> <li>20 microns</li> <li>Made in United States</li> </ul>		Cotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made in China</li> </ul>
	Thick Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low density polyethylene (LDPE)</li> <li>Plastic # 4</li> <li>50 microns</li> <li>With cut-out handles</li> <li>Made in Québec</li> </ul>		Eco-designed bag (Credo bag)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polyethylene (PE)</li> <li>Plastic # 1</li> <li>Made in Québec (Montréal)</li> <li>Made from 100% recycled content</li> </ul>
	Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unbleached kraft paper</li> <li>Made in the United States from partially recycled fibre</li> </ul>			



## Summary of LCA Results - Disposable Bags

For disposable bags, the results of the study illustrated in the table below tell us about the potential impacts alternative or replacement bags have on the environment compared to the conventional plastic 17 micron HDPE bag. Namely are the possible replacement bags equivalent to or weaker environmentally than those of the conventional 17 micron HDPE bag used just once. The conventional plastic HDPE thin plastic bag is the reference bag (17 microns).

LCA Results for Disposables: The bioplastic bag and thick plastic bag have impact scores 2 to 11 times and 4 to 6 times greater respectively than the conventional bag.

The paper bag is the least performing bag with 4 to 28 times greater potential impacts than the conventional plastic bag.

### Environmental Performance Among the Five Disposable Bags studied.

	Human Health	Quality of ecosystem	Use of fossil resource	Abandonment of the environment
Conventional Plastics	Low impact	Low impact	Low impact	High impact
Oxodegradable	Low impact	Low impact	Low impact	High impact
Bioplastics	High impact	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact
Thick Plastics	Medium impact	Medium impact	High impact	High impact
Paper	High impact	High impact	High impact	Low impact

■ Low impact   
 ■ Medium impact   
 ■ High impact

The conventional plastic bag made of thin HDPE is the one with the least environmental impacts among the five disposable bags studied, grouping together the oxodegradable plastic bag, the compostable bioplastic bag, the thick plastic bag and the paper bag. The conventional plastic bag has more environmental impact when abandoned in the environment.

The conventional plastic bag has several environmental and economic advantages. Thin and light, its production requires little material and energy. It also avoids the production and purchase of garbage/bin liner bags since it benefits from a high reuse rate when reused for this purpose (77.7%).

The weakness of this type of bag is related to abandonment in the environment. It's very slow to degrade because of the persistence of plastic (polyethylene). Disposable bags made of source plant materials (such as the compostable bioplastic bag from starch-polyester type and the paper bag) have the advantage of being a limited nuisance when abandoned in the environment.

The oxodegradable bag, on the other hand, does not offer an environmental advantage when compared to its non-degradable equivalent the conventional plastic bag; its life cycle being nearly equal to identical. Except that when it is abandoned in the environment, the oxodegradable bag is subject to an environmental accelerated fragmentation into polyethylene particles (PE) invisible to the naked eye and persistent for a long time in the environment.

Some stores display the thick plastic bag as reusable. In order to make this option more environmentally-

friendly than the conventional plastic bag used just once, the thicker plastic bag should be reused between 3 and 6 times to transport groceries.

## Summary of LCA Results Reusable bags

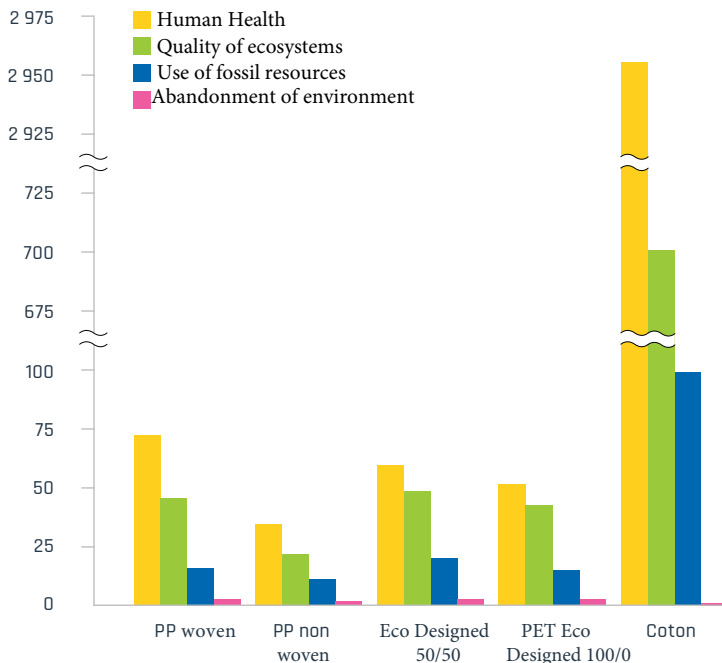
The most common reusable bags in Quebec are woven polypropylene (PP) bags, non-woven, fabric polypropylene (PP) bags and cotton bags. For this study, a prototype ecodesigned bag (the Credo bag) made of 100% recycled PET and manufactured in Quebec has been added. All these bags have the advantage of being generally larger and more robust than disposable bags. LCA Results for reusables: The PP woven and PP non-woven bags need an equivalent number of reuses to equal the thin plastic bag ranging from 16 to 98 and 11 to 59, respectively, depending on the scenario and indicator.

### Number of uses needed in order to be better or equivalent than the conventional bag\*.

(Number of reuses equivalent to the conventional plastic bag)

As an indicator and on the basis of use by week, the reusable bags must be used at least 35 to 75 times so that their impacts on Life Cycle Environmental Indicators are equivalent to or better than those of the conventional plastic bag.

The cotton bag studied is an option that is not recommended because of its significant impact on the "human health" indicator, requiring between 100 and 2,954 uses for its environmental impact to be equivalent to the environmental impacts of the conventional plastic bag.



### What about the cost of shopping bags over their life cycle?

The results show that the main cost of the bag's life cycle occurs at the stage of their acquisition by the retailer or consumer. In the case of conventional plastic bags and the oxodegradable bags, these costs are offset by the avoidance of having to purchase bags to manage household waste when the conventional bag is reused for this purpose. The cost to manage bags at the end of their life are, in turn, low compared to at the total life-cycle cost of the bags.

To view the complete report :

[Click here](#)

\* \*Refer to the Big Shopping Scenario (p. 15) in the full report.



**Ministry of Environment  
and Food of Denmark**  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

# Life Cycle Assessment of grocery carrier bags

Environmental Project  
no. 1985

February 2018

impact categories presented higher reuse times than others. Lastly, the very high number of reuse times scored by cotton and composite bags is primarily due only to the ozone depletion impact category, for which the cotton production dataset provides larger impacts than the reference LDPE carrier bag.

**Table III. Carrier bags providing the lowest environmental impacts for all the environmental indicators considered. The order in which the bags are listed corresponds to the ranking of their LCA results starting from the lowest impact. Only the three lowest scoring bags are listed. The results refer to the reference flow provided in Table I.**

Environmental indicator	Carrier bags providing lowest impacts
Climate change	Paper unbleached, biopolymer, LDPE
Ozone depletion	LDPE
Human toxicity, cancer effects	Paper unbleached, LDPE
Human toxicity, non-cancer effects	Composite, PP, LDPE
Photochemical ozone formation	LDPE
Ionizing radiation	LDPE
Particulate matter	LDPE
Terrestrial acidification	LDPE
Terrestrial eutrophication	LDPE
Freshwater eutrophication	LDPE
Marine eutrophication	PP, LDPE
Ecosystem toxicity	LDPE
Resource depletion, fossil	Paper unbleached, LDPE
Resource depletion, abiotic	PP, LDPE
Water resource depletion	LDPE, biopolymer

**Table IV. Calculated number of primary reuse times for the carrier bags in the rows, for their most preferable disposal option, necessary to provide the same environmental performance of the average LDPE carrier bag, reused as a waste bin bag before incineration. The results refer to the reference flow provided in Table I.**

	LDPE average, reused as waste bin bag	
	Climate Change	All indicators
LDPE simple, reused as waste bag	0	1
LDPE rigid handle, reused as waste bag	0	0
Recycled LDPE, reused as waste bag	1	2
PP, non-woven, recycled	6	52
PP, woven, recycled	5	45
Recycled PET, recycled	8	84
Polyester PET, recycled	2	35
Biopolymer, reused as waste bag or incinerated	0	42
Unbleached paper, reused as waste bag or incinerated	0	43
Bleached paper, reused as waste bag or incinerated	1	43 <sup>4</sup>
Organic cotton, reused as waste bag or incinerated	149	20000

<sup>4</sup> The highest value for bleached paper is set to as minimum be equal to the value for unbleached paper.



# Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2016 and 2017 Tables and Figures

Assessing Trends in Material Generation, Recycling,  
Composting, Combustion with Energy Recovery and  
Landfilling in the United States

November 2019

**Table 23. Products Generated\* in the Municipal Waste Stream, 1960 to 2017  
(With Detail on Containers and Packaging)  
(In percent of total generation)**

Products	Percent of Total Generation									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
<i>(Detail in Table 14)</i>										
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
<i>(Detail in Table 18)</i>										
<b>Containers and Packaging</b>										
<b>Glass Packaging</b>										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	1.6%	4.6%	4.4%	2.7%	2.3%	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Other Bottles & Jars	4.2%	3.7%	3.2%	2.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
<b>Total Glass Packaging</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Steel Packaging</b>										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	0.7%	1.3%	0.3%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	4.3%	2.9%	1.9%	1.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Other Steel Packaging	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Total Steel Packaging</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Aluminum Packaging</b>										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	0.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Cans	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
Foil and Closures	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Total Aluminum Packaging</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard Pkg</b>										
Corrugated Boxes	8.3%	10.5%	11.3%	11.5%	12.4%	12.2%	11.6%	12.0%	11.8%	12.2%
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons‡			0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Folding Cartons			2.5%	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Other Paperboard Packaging	4.4%	4.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Bags and Sacks			2.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Wrapping Papers			0.1%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Other Paper Packaging	3.3%	3.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
<i>Subtotal Other Paper &amp; Paperboard Pkg</i>							3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%
<b>Total Paper &amp; Board Pkg</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
<b>Plastics Packaging</b>										
PET Bottles and Jars			0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%
HDPE Natural Bottles			0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Other Containers	0.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Bags and Sacks			0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	-	-	-
Wraps			0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal Bags, Sacks and Wraps</i>			0.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Other Plastics Packaging	0.1%	1.0%	0.5%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%
<b>Total Plastics Packaging</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Other Packaging</b>										
Wood Packaging	2.3%	1.7%	2.6%	3.9%	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	3.7%	4.3%	4.2%
Other Misc. Packaging	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Total Containers &amp; Pkg</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>29.8%</b>	<b>29.9%</b>
<b>Total Product Wastes†</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>72.9%</b>	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>70.1%</b>	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>



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Planet Money THE ECONOMY EXPLAINED

# Are Plastic Bag Bans Garbage?

April 9, 2019 8:04 AM ET

GREG ROSALSKY



Fiona Goodall/Getty Images

**Editor's note:** This is an excerpt of Planet Money's newsletter. You can [sign up here](#).

It was only about [40 years ago](#) that plastic bags became standard at U.S. grocery stores. This also made them standard in sewers, landfills, rivers and [the Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#). They clog drains and cause floods, litter landscapes and kill wildlife. The national movement to get rid of them is gaining steam — with [more than 240 cities and counties](#) passing laws that ban or tax them since 2007. [New York](#) recently became the second U.S. state to ban them. But these bans may be hurting the environment more than helping it.

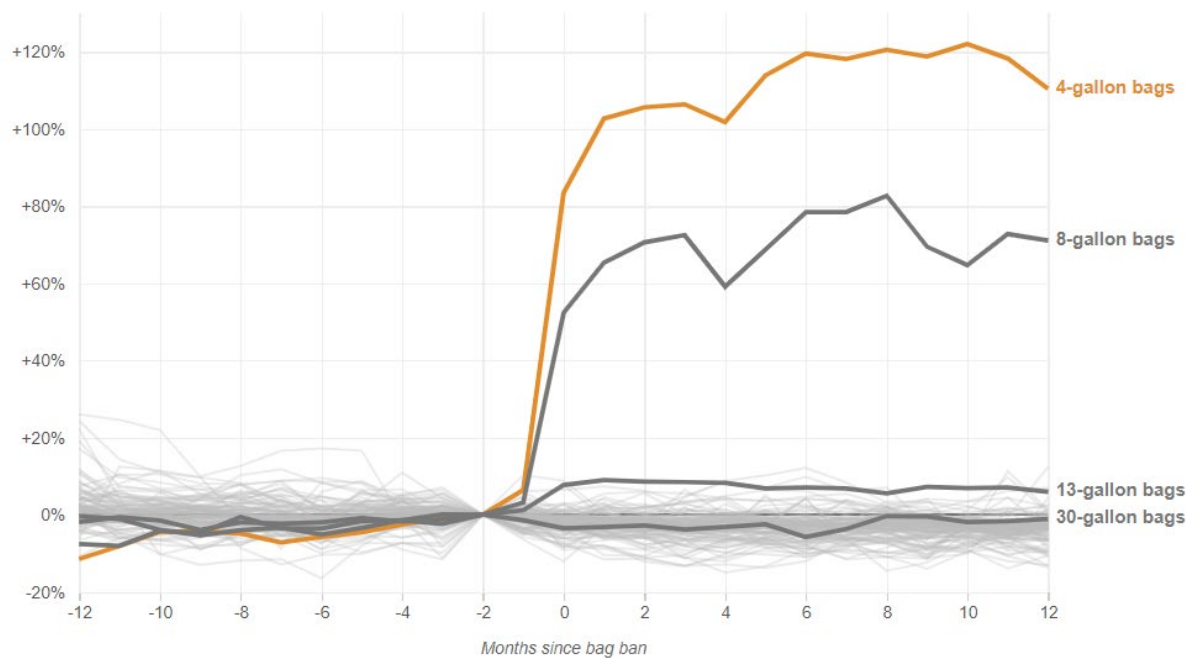
University of Sydney economist Rebecca Taylor started studying bag regulations because it seemed as though every time she moved for a new job — from Washington, D.C., to California to Australia — bag restrictions were implemented shortly after. "Yeah, these policies might be following me," she jokes. Taylor [recently published](#) a study of bag regulations in California. It's a classic tale of unintended consequences.

## Paper or plastic?

Before California banned plastic shopping bags statewide in late 2016, a wave of [139 California cities and counties](#) implemented the policy themselves. Taylor and colleagues compared bag use in cities with bans with those without them. For six months, they spent weekends in grocery stores tallying the types of bags people carried out (she admits these weren't her wildest weekends). She also analyzed these stores' sales data.

Taylor found these bag bans did what they were supposed to: People in the cities with the bans used fewer plastic bags, which led to about 40 million fewer pounds of plastic trash per year. But people who used to reuse their shopping bags for other purposes, like picking up dog poop or lining trash bins, still needed bags. "What I found was that sales of garbage bags actually skyrocketed after plastic grocery bags were banned," she says. This was particularly the case for small, 4-gallon bags, which saw a 120 percent increase in sales after bans went into effect.

### Trash Bag Sales Jumped After Grocery Bag Bans



Source: Taylor, 2019, "Bag leakage: The effect of disposable carryout bag regulations on unregulated bags." Researcher's own analyses calculated based in part on data from The Nielsen Co. (US) LLC and marketing databases provided through the Nielsen Datasets at the Kilts Center for Marketing Data Center at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. The conclusions drawn from the Nielsen data are those of the researcher and do not reflect the views of Nielsen. Nielsen is not responsible for, had no role in, and was not involved in analyzing and preparing the results reported herein.

Credit: Koko Nakajima and Alyson Hurt/NPR

Trash bags are thick and use more plastic than typical shopping bags. "So about 30 percent of the plastic that was eliminated by the ban comes back in the form of thicker garbage bags," Taylor says. On top of that, cities that banned plastic bags saw a surge in the use of paper bags, which she estimates resulted in about 80 million pounds of extra paper trash per year.



Plastic haters, it's time to brace yourselves. A [bunch](#) of [studies](#) find that [paper bags](#) are actually worse for the environment. They require cutting down and processing trees, which involves lots of water, toxic chemicals, fuel and heavy machinery. While paper is biodegradable and avoids some of the problems of plastic, Taylor says, the huge increase of paper, together with the uptick in plastic trash bags, means banning plastic shopping bags increases greenhouse gas emissions. That said, these bans do reduce nonbiodegradable litter.

### **Are tote bags killing us?**

What about reusable cloth bags? We know die-hard public radio fans love them! They've got to be great, right?

Nope. They can be even worse.

A [2011 study](#) by the U.K. government found a person would have to reuse a cotton tote bag 131 times before it was better for climate change than using a plastic grocery bag once. The Danish government recently did [a study](#) that took into account environmental impacts beyond simply greenhouse gas emissions, including water use, damage to ecosystems and air pollution. These factors make cloth bags even worse. They estimate you would have to use an organic cotton bag *20,000 times* more than a plastic grocery bag to make using it better for the environment.

That said, the Danish government's estimate doesn't take into account the effects of bags littering land and sea, where plastic is clearly the worst offender.

### **Stop depressing me. What should we do?**

The most environment-friendly way to carry groceries is to use the same bag over and over again. According to the Danish study, the best reusable ones are made from polyester or plastics like polypropylene. Those still have to be used dozens and dozens of times to be greener than plastic grocery bags, which have [the smallest carbon footprint](#) for a single use.

As for bag policies, Taylor says a fee is smarter than a ban. She has [a second paper](#) showing a small fee for bags is just as effective as a ban when it comes to encouraging use of reusable bags. But a fee offers flexibility for people who reuse plastic bags for garbage disposal or dog walking.

Taylor believes the recent legislation passed in New York is a bad version of the policy. It bans only plastic bags and gives free rein to using paper ones ([counties have the option](#) to impose a 5-cent fee on them). Taylor is concerned this will drive up paper use. The best policy, Taylor says, imposes a fee on both paper and plastic bags and encourages reuse.

This bag research makes public radio's love for tote bags awkward, doesn't it? It might be weird, though, if we started giving out plastic grocery bags.

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# **Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act - SB313 (2020)**

Uploaded by: O'HALLORAN, MIKE

Position: UNF



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NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – [www.NFIB.com/Maryland](http://www.NFIB.com/Maryland)

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 313** – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland opposes Senate Bill 310 – legislation that would prohibit a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag” and requires a store to charge, collect, and retain at least 10-cents for each “durable carryout bag provided” to a customer.

Within recent years, scores of retailers nationwide and throughout Maryland have instituted their own reusable bag programs without the interference of government mandates. These programs have proven wildly successful in terms of reducing single use bag consumption and have encouraged consumers to bring their own reusable bags.

At the same time plastic bags provide a more affordable option for small retailers allowing them to keep costs down at the checkout counter. These plastic bags are not only less expensive for employers but can be recyclable as well.

While the provision requiring retailers to collect and retain at least 10-cents per “durable carryout bag” may mitigate costs for larger retailers, it will not make small businesses whole. Maryland’s small retailers do not purchase non-plastic bags at the same volume as their larger competitors. As a result they pay more per bag – 30-cents on average. Although there is no prohibition against charging 30-cents per bag, doing so would put our small retailers at an even larger competitive disadvantage.

For these reasons **NFIB opposes SB313** and requests an unfavorable committee report.

**MDE\_LOI\_SB313**

Uploaded by: Abbott, Tyler

Position: INFO



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 313, Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed Senate Bill 313, entitled *Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act*. We support the concept of reducing plastic waste and litter and would like to provide additional information regarding the bill.

Beginning July 1, 2021, the bill would prohibit a store from providing a plastic carryout bag to a customer and require a store to charge, collect, and retain at least 10 cents for each durable carryout bag provided to a customer. A unit of county government would be responsible for enforcing the proposed legislation. The Maryland Department of Labor would be required to adopt regulations to implement the proposed legislation.

The proposed legislation would also establish a Single-Use Products Workgroup to study and make recommendations to address plastic and single-use container waste throughout Maryland. The effective date for the workgroup provisions in the proposed legislation is July 1, 2020, and the workgroup must submit a report of its findings by December 1, 2020. It may be difficult for the workgroup to complete its study, formulate recommendations, and write the final report between July 1, 2020, and December 1, 2020. In order to effectively convene the workgroup and study the topics outlined in the proposed legislation, MDE recommends revising the due date for the final report to January 1, 2022.

MDE's 2016 Statewide Waste Characterization Study found that clean film and clean shopping bags make up approximately 0.7 percent of the municipal solid waste being disposed of in Maryland by weight. While plastic carryout bags make up a small portion of the overall waste stream, they can pose litter and water quality problems. Plastic carryout bags are susceptible to littering because they are lightweight. They can make their way into storm drains and waterways and pose a risk of ingestion by marine and other wildlife. Maryland has established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for trash in certain State waters.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 313 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott".

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Malcolm Augustine  
Ms. Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration

# **MDAgainstPoverty\_Info\_SB0313**

Uploaded by: Jefferson, Stacey

Position: INFO



## INFORMATIONAL TESTIMONY ON SB 313

### Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Finance Committee

February 20, 2020

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Margo Quinlan, Co-Chairs

#### Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
Behavioral Health System Baltimore  
CASH Campaign of Maryland  
Catholic Charities  
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
Family League of Baltimore  
Fuel Fund of Maryland  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Homeless Persons  
Representation Project  
Job Opportunities Task Force  
League of Women Voters of Maryland  
Loyola University Maryland  
Maryland Catholic Conference  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Community Action  
Partnership  
Maryland Family Network  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Paul's Place  
Public Justice Center  
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore  
Welfare Advocates

#### Marylanders Against Poverty

Stacey Jefferson, Chair  
P: 410-637-1900 ext 8578  
C: 443-813-9231

E: [stacey.jefferson@bhsbaltimore.org](mailto:stacey.jefferson@bhsbaltimore.org)

Margo Quinlan, Co-Chair  
C: 410-236-5488

E: [mquinlan@familyleague.org](mailto:mquinlan@familyleague.org)

**The Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP) appreciates the opportunity to submit information testimony on SB 313**, which prohibits a store from providing a customer with a plastic bag and requires a store to charge, collect and retain at least 10-cents for each durable bag provided to a customer.

**MAP appreciates the intent of this bill to reduce plastic pollution across the state of Maryland, and to encourage alternatives to single-use bags.** The potential health effects on humans of plastic particles, their additives and the toxins they absorb from the environment are of great concern. Studies show that poorer communities tend to be exposed to higher concentrations of air pollution because of their proximity to landfills, trash incinerators, etc.

**MAP is concerned that the ten cent fee on paper bags in this bill will disproportionately impact Marylanders experiencing poverty, in particular, those who utilize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women's, Infants and Children (WIC) program to purchase food.** There are currently 797,000 SNAP and WIC participants in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> Federal nutrition benefits cannot be used to purchase non-food items that includes purchasing bags. Therefore, if someone purchasing groceries with their benefits does not have a reusable bag on them and does not have any cash on them they will have to carry out their items in their arms. MAP would encourage the committee to consider ways to reduce the disparate impact on Marylanders experiencing poverty.

**MAP appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 313, and looks forward to continue working with the General Assembly on issues related to poverty.**

\*\*\*

*Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.*

<sup>1</sup> Data from Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of Human Services, January 2020