

To: The Honorable Delegates of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Subject: SUPPORT HB-0391 - Prohibition of Balloon Releases

Date: January 13, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

The undersigned organizations, representing thousands of Marylanders from various constituencies across the State urge SUPPORT of HB-0391. During the 2020 Session, HB0391 (previously SB-28) received overwhelming, bi-partisan support in both the Maryland Senate and House. Because the 2020 Session was suspended, SB-28 was postponed.

Released balloons represent a major pollution problem in Maryland, impacting a wide cross-section of the environment and threatening marine-life, wildlife, and farm animals. We urge a favorable report on HB0391.

Sincerely,

Animal Welfare Institute

Assateague Coastal Trust

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Humane Society of the United States

Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust

Maryland Sierra Club

National Aquarium

Oceana

Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce

Queen Anne's Conservation Association

Surfrider Foundation – Ocean City Chapter

