



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **HB 13**

TITLE: **Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon
Into the Atmosphere**

SPONSOR: **Delegate Hartman**

COMMITTEE: **Environment and Transportation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **January 29, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 13 – Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere. This bill would prohibit a person from releasing a balloon into the atmosphere or organizing an event in which balloons are released into the atmosphere, and authorizes the Department of the Environment to impose a civil fine for violating this statute.

We have long known the detrimental effects the use and presence of plastic has had on our environment. When a balloon is intentionally released into the air and pops, the resulting non-biodegradable material can fall in our waterways, forests, and streets. County Executive Olszewski is passionate about preserving the environment and firmly believes that any attempt to reduce the introduction of plastics and microplastics into our ecosystem is worth supporting. This bill takes a long-needed step in that direction.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests **FAVORABLE** report on HB 13. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.