



# SOUTHEAST

community development corporation

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[www.southeastcdc.org](http://www.southeastcdc.org)

February 10, 2020

Re. TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 209/SB 313: Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act

I write today on behalf of Southeast CDC in support of the Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act, introduced by Del. Lierman and Sen. Augustine. This bill would ban plastic bags from distribution by stores with purchase and require stores to charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag or reusable carryout bag for sale.

This legislation is important for many reasons:

- It will clean up our communities and neighborhoods.
- It will clean up our waterways and the Bay.
- It will ensure that consumers only pay for what they need—if they do not need a bag, they will not need to buy one.
- It will save residents, local governments and businesses money spent on clean-up and trash disposal of single-use bags.

The Southeast CDC manages Highlandtown Main Street, a program that revitalizes the Eastern Avenue commercial corridor. We partner closely with the Highlandtown Business Association, city agencies and community volunteers to ensure that the district is kept clean of litter and debris.

A major source of litter in our district is plastic bags. Cleaning the district is a huge undertaking—one that costs our business owners significant time and money to address. Plastic bags often become caught in tall trees, which are nearly impossible to access and remove. We have purchased reusable fabric bags to share with business owners and customers in an effort to reduce one-time bag use, and we support the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act.

Thank you for considering this legislation. We urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kari Snyder', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kari Snyder  
Executive Director