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February 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs

RE: HB 209 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (**SUPPORT**)

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to support HB 209. The legislation prohibits retail establishments from providing plastic carryout bags to customer on pains of a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation. Instead, store's may provide durable carryout bags for a fee.

Retail plastic bags have a tremendously negative impact upon the environment and their continued use should be deterred. HB 209 is a sensible means of eliminating the use of plastic bags in retail establishments.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

