



TESTIMONY FOR HB0069 ENVIRONMENT – SINGLE-USE PLASTICS - RESTRICTIONS

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Love

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0069 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are very concerned about the mountains of single-use plastics that we are throwing into landfills, streams, rivers and pretty much everywhere. We are drowning in plastic and we must do something to change this behavior.

This bill would prohibit a business that serves food and beverages, or just beverages, from providing single-use plastic products unless requested by the consumer. It takes effect January 1, 2022. The products that are prohibited include: condiments, lids, lid plugs and stoppers, stirrers, straws and utensils.

It also prohibits a hotel or lodging establishment from providing personal cleansing products in small plastic bottles. It phases in this prohibition by applying it to lodging providers that have more than 51 rooms beginning January 1, 2024, and to all lodging providers by January 1, 2025.

This is a giant step forward in reducing our dependence on single-use plastics. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.