



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0069 – Single-Use Plastics
Hearing Date: February 17, 2021
Bill Sponsor: Delegate Love
Committee: Economic Matters
Submitting: Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) -- a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of the Howard County Climate Collaboration -- supports HB0069 – Single-Use Plastics.

According to an International Energy Agency report released in Oct 2018, *greenhouse gas emissions from plastics* are predicted to sharply rise at a critical time in which we must be reducing emissions.

The plastic pollution crisis is making headline news. We cannot ignore it any longer. If plastic production isn't curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2050. The average American uses 1.6 straws a day and Howard County's population in 2019 was 325,690. That means Howard County alone uses 521,104 straws a day which immediately becomes trash!

Literally trillions of condiment packets are produced each year and plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Hotels in New York City alone use more than 27 million single-use toiletry amenities in tiny plastic bottles a year, based on data from the InterContinental Hotels Group. These items are not recyclable at all and every single one ends up in our environment, overburden landfills or incinerated causing toxic air pollution.

We must address this issue with urgency. Making all these items available by customer request only will reduce the amount of waste that is degrading our environment and will save restaurants and hotels money by not having to purchase so many of these so called "freebies".

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

HoCo Climate Action

HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee, Laurel MD

www.HoCoClimateAction.org