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NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – [www.NFIB.com/Maryland](http://www.NFIB.com/Maryland)

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 223** – Plastic Bag Reduction Act

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland opposes Senate Bill 223 – legislation that would prohibit a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag.”

Within recent years, scores of retailers nationwide and throughout Maryland have instituted their own reusable bag programs without the interference of government mandates. These programs have proven wildly successful in terms of reducing single use bag consumption and have encouraged consumers to bring their own reusable bags.

At the same time plastic bags provide a more affordable option for small retailers allowing them to keep costs down at the checkout counter. These plastic bags are not only less expensive for employers but can be recyclable as well.

For these reasons **NFIB opposes SB223** and requests an unfavorable committee report.