



I write in support of HB314. One recent summer I researched plastic ban laws around the world for a United Nations toolkit, pictured here. I learned, among other things, that plastic bag bans work.

- In San Jose, California, which prohibited single-use shopping bags, the city experienced reductions in the presence of single-use plastic bags in the street (by 59 %), storm drains (89% reduction), and creeks (60 % reduction), and an increase in the use of reusable bags (from 4% to 62%).
- In Washington, D.C., a 5-cent fee on single-use bags resulted in the reduction of bags used annually from 270 million bags to 55 million bags within the first year.
- After Los Angeles County enacted a bag ban ordinance, it experienced a 95% reduction of all single-use bags, with a 30% reduction of single-use paper bags.
- San Mateo County, California reported that their reusable bag ordinance resulted in an increase in 162% of

the number of people who bring their own reusable bags and 130 % more people carrying out items without a bag.

- And the County of Alameda, California reported that its bag ban resulted in 85 % fewer bag purchases overall, with twice as many customers bringing their own bag after the ordinance was enacted or are not using a bag at all.
- Bangladesh was the first country to ban the manufacture and use of plastic bags. (\$71 fine and six months of imprisonment for using polythene bags). Other countries that have banned the use of all plastic bags include: Eritrea, Somaliland, Bhutan, Haiti, Tanzania Taiwan, and Macedonia.

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I would be proud for Maryland to join the 8 other states -California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont—that have banned single-use plastic bags. Our Bay needs it.

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