

January 25, 2021

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 314: Plastic Bag Reduction Act.

Good day members of the Environment and Transportation, and Economic Matters Committees.

I am writing to you today to support for reducing the use of plastic bags across the state of Maryland.

Plastic bags are pretty common place in most of today's restaurants, grocery stores and many retail stores across the state and across our nation. They are cheap, easy to obtain and can carry a wide variety of items. But there is a heavy cost to our environment for such convenience.

We have an obligation to the next generation, to hand over a cleaner, more livable planet than the one we were given by our parents. Everywhere you look on Maryland's streets and highways there are discarded plastic bags. They are small parachutes that can fly all over our lands and into The Chesapeake Bay's estuaries, waterways and they negatively impact our delicate ecosystem. Plastic in our oceans is another big environmental disaster that has been unfolding over the course of many years. Let's see if we can make positive changes to policy that can help protect our environment and the bay.

Inconsistent environmental policies within our region have made the use of plastic bags less prominent in some areas, but not in others. Patchwork solutions seldom work well. We need policy that is bold, wide reaching, and can make a positive impact across the state. And maybe help to influence our regional neighbors, and their environmental policies.

We have other alternatives to carry our items home from the store or market. Single use, disposable plastic bags should no longer be an option for simply carrying items. We have better, more earth friendly alternatives to plastic bags. Let's discourage the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of environmentally sound alternatives.

Please vote to support HB 314 and return a favorable vote on this important bill.
Thank you for your time and considering of my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities, Maryland families, and Maryland's environment.
Parent Advocacy Consortium