



Testimony on SB 0223 and HB 0314  
Maryland's Bag Ban  
Position: Favorable

January 25, 2021  
Maryland House of Delegates and State Senate

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore submits this testimony in support of SB 0223 and HB 0314, the Ban on Plastic Bags, which would prohibit stores from distributing plastic carryout bags.

Waterfront Partnership is a Business Improvement District responsible for maintaining, improving, and protecting the Inner Harbor. We represent the interests of businesses and developers located along the Baltimore Waterfront. Through our Healthy Harbor Initiative, these businesses have supported a City and State ban on foam containers, installed the world's first solar and hydro powered trash interceptor (Mr. Trash Wheel), and advocated for legislation aimed at reducing litter in our neighborhoods, streams, and harbor. We do these things because they are good for the environment but also because a clean environment is good for business.

Since 2014, when we installed Mr. Trash Wheel, **we have removed over 900,000 plastic bags** from the Baltimore Harbor. That's on average 10,000 plastic bags a month!

Waterfront Partnership currently spends \$200,000 a year to remove trash from the water, but this is not a long-term solution. Ultimately, we must change behaviors so that less litter ends up on the ground in the first place. That is because litter on the ground is carried into the Harbor by storm drains, which are located throughout the City. Banning plastic bags will eliminate plastic bags from the litter stream while ensuring that the public is encouraged to use their own reusable.

We use funding we receive from the business community to pick up litter, but we would rather spend it on events, landscaping, and attractions for residents, like the new Rash Field Skate Park. A bill like Maryland's Bag Ban, which promotes behavior change and reduces litter, means we can do just that. We respectfully ask for a favorable report.

Contact:  
Adam W. Lindquist  
Manager, Healthy Harbor Initiative  
Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore  
(443) 743-3309  
Adam@WaterfrontPartnership.org



Kayaker in Gwynns Falls stream paddles past a tree containing dozens of plastic bags



Volunteers stand in front of a pile of 1,337 plastic bags collected from the Baltimore Harbor in just one day