



January 25th, 2021

Stuart T. Proctor
The Downtown Sailing Center

RE: Support of 2021 Maryland House Bill HB0314 "Plastic Bag Reduction Act"

To Whom it Concerns,

As the Executive Director of The Downtown Sailing Center in Baltimore, I fully support Delegate Lierman's proposed bill HB0314 for the 2021 legislative session. Plastic bags, by the thousands, litter our streets and storm drains before they end up in our harbors. Prolific, the plastic bags float around for weeks before washing up on our shores or breaking into thousands of little pieces. Our diverse sailors deserve a cleaner, healthier boating environment.

Plastic carryout bags are bad for our business. Who wants to go boating when bags float in the water? The Downtown Sailing Center's bottom line is negatively impacted by the inaction of Maryland's legislature on this issue. Our summer campers cannot even play by the water's edge because of the trash that litters our shores. Plastic carryout bags do not reduce our litter crisis: they dramatically add to it. The bag plague is not just in urban areas, either. Take a walk down to Ego Alley and see firsthand the effects of your inaction.

Science shows that even "compostable" and "biodegradable" bags introduce toxins and microplastics to our environment... if they make it that far. Bags trap marine life, are mistakenly eaten as food, smother aquatic vegetation, and end up in our food chain. There is no other solution to reducing their impact. Just like smoking, consumption will not be reduced to suitable levels unless there is government intervention. Marylanders need the state legislature to "ban the bag." I implore you to do your part: vote to pass Bill HB0314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart T. Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart T. Proctor
Executive Director