

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY  
*People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity*

January 28, 2021

Senator and Committee Chair Delores G. Kelley  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Re: SENATE BILL 0223 – Plastic Bag Reduction Act

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

We are writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability in **support** of Senate Bill 0223 – the Plastic Bag Reduction Act.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has 21 members, 20 of whom are Mayoral appointees, and oversees the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of SB0223 because it would support the implementation of strategies in the Sustainability Plan, Waste and Recycling, Section 3, Action 1: Enact legislation to impose a fee for plastic bags, and support state legislation instituting beverage container deposits. Baltimore City, seeking to improve local water ways and reduce waste, has moved forward with its own plastic bag fee of \$0.05 which is scheduled to become effective July 9, 2021. However, a broader application of strategies to reduce unnecessary plastic consumption and mitigate waste is needed. Consumers and businesses act regionally and Maryland waterways flow through multiple jurisdictions and lead to the Chesapeake Bay which continues to struggle with water quality.

SB0223 is important to move Maryland forward to define a uniform statewide strategy to reduce waste and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. By doing so, it will also provide businesses and consumers a uniform approach and consistent policies which will improve waste reduction.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 0223.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins  
Mia Blom  
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Senator Augustine