

TESTIMONY TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB0223 The Plastic Bag Reduction Act Support

POSITION: Support

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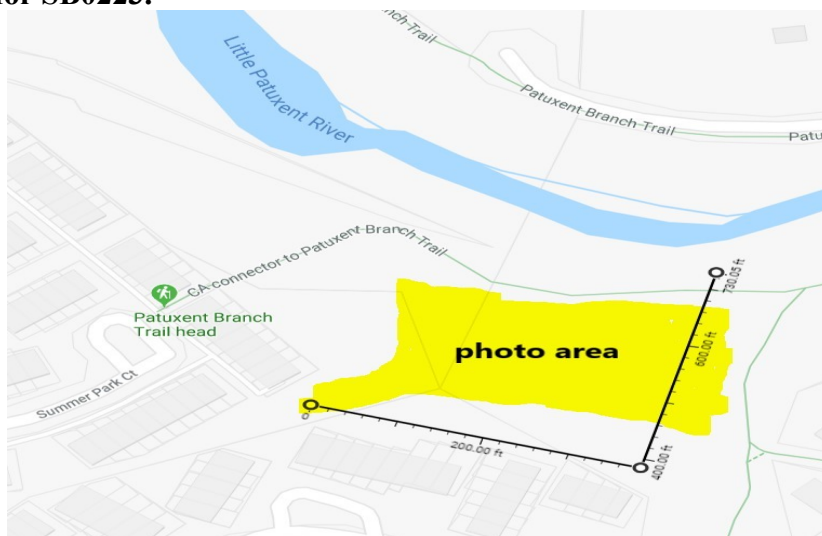
Date: January 28, 2021

I grew up in Montgomery County, MD, and frequently visit there. Montgomery County has been collecting a bag fee for seven years. The first time I encountered it at a grocery store, I admit I was annoyed. However, I quickly became accustomed to it, and I found that bringing reusable bags to the store is easy. I've acquired all my reusable bags for free through business promotions and my workplace.

Plastic waste is a serious environmental problem that will not go away easily. By banning plastic bags and imposing a fee on other disposable bags, I anticipate that many Maryland residents will respond like I did and switch to reusable bags. We must start doing the easy things now. From the UN Report on Single-use Plastics, "We are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic waste we generate, unless we rethink the way we manufacture, use and manage plastics. Ultimately, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges of our time will require governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act."

To demonstrate the disposable bag problem in Maryland, on March 2, 2019, I took photos of the disposable bags on the Columbia Association public space and townhome association property behind the townhouses 9449 – 9467 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, MD. I found over 30 bags in this relatively small plot. These bags are less than 200 yards from the Little Patuxent River, in an area which drains into it. Below I include an approximate map of the area and a few of the photos I took there.

I urge your support for SB0223.





Again, I urge your support on SB0223.