



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB223/HB314 – Plastic Bag Reduction Act
Hearing Date: January 28, 2021
Bill Sponsor: Senator Augustine
Committee: Finance
Submitting: Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) -- a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of the Howard County Climate Collaboration -- supports SB223/HB314 – Plastic Bag Reduction Act.

According to an International Energy Agency report released in Oct 2018, *greenhouse gas emissions from plastics* are predicted to sharply rise at a critical time in which we must be reducing emissions.

The plastic pollution crisis is making headline news. We cannot ignore it any longer. 160,000 plastic bags are used globally every second! If plastic production isn't curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2050. The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year. According to Waste Management, only one percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling. That means that the average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest ends up in landfills as waste or worse as litter in the land and waterways of Maryland.

We must address this issue with urgency. A fee on plastic bags is the most effective way to create behavior change and thereby address this critical issue.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

HoCo Climate Action

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Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee, Laurel MD

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