

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to request a favorable report on SB 223, the Plastic Bag Reduction Act.

Our current lifestyle of consumerism, overconsumption and convenience is not sustainable on our finite planet.

Every minute of every day a garbage truck full of plastic enters our waterways. It is an environmental and health crisis unfolding before our eyes.

SB 223 will not only address this crisis by reducing plastic, but it will also bring increased awareness to the community so we can move forward and turn the tide on plastic pollution.

Plastic bags in particular have a plethora of negative impacts:

- are not biodegradable
- trillions of bags are produced yearly worldwide, with only 1% being recycled
- take 1,000 years or more to break up into ever smaller particles
- thousands of marine animals die each year after swallowing or choking on plastic bags
- producing plastic bags requires millions of gallons of petroleum that could be used for transportation or heating

None of the above facts are new. We are all aware that plastic bags are unnecessary with easy alternatives.

We do not have time to wait.

What will it take to make major changes? We now know that we are literally eating, drinking and breathing plastic. We are not only sacrificing our well-being for profits of the plastic industry, but we are sacrificing future generations. As you consider your vote, consider this recent study finding:

“Microplastic Revealed in Placentas of Unborn Babies”.

Pat Hersey

9462 Farewell Rd.

Columbia, MD 21045