



HB135 – Environment – Single–Use Plastics – Restrictions

Testimony before House Economic Matters Committee February 2, 2022

Position: Favorable with amendments

Dear Economic Matters Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to **support with amendment HB135**, to reduce single-use plastics. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

Indivisible Howard County was deeply involved in advocating for Howard County bill CB13-2021 reducing the use of single-use plastics, which went into effect January 1, 2022. In addition to Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Charles County, Takoma Park, and DC have all banned certain types of single-use plastics.

However, we believe HB135 should be made stronger with the following changes:

- 1 Food and beverage products should be made available upon request only, and not have the option of a food service business offering the product to customers. Both Howard County and DC forbid food service businesses from offering these products under most circumstances.
- 2 The restrictions in HB135 should apply to drive-through windows. The DC bill applies their single-use plastic restrictions to drive-throughs. It suffices for the menu sign to indicate that single-use plastics will be available by request only.
- 3 The restrictions in HB135 should apply to third-party food ordering platforms, meaning any website, mobile application, or other internet service that offers or arranges for the sale of food and beverages from food service entities. Washington, DC imposes this restriction.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill with amendments.

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