



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 135

Environment—Single-Use Plastics-- Restrictions

Economic Matters Committee

2/02/2022

Good afternoon Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. My Name is Rev. Linda Boyd, and I am here on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 135.

According to a study undertaken several years ago by the World Economic Forum, seventy-eight million tons of plastic packaging is produced annually for global consumption. Further, in the same study, it was reported that only 14% of global plastic packaging is collected for recycling and only 2% is reused as packaging. It is well-established that plastics are clogging our waterways.

HB 135 calls for restrictions on the use of single-use plastics by the food service business. Such restrictions would greatly assist the citizens of Maryland by helping to eliminate needless plastic pollution on our land and in the Chesapeake Bay.

We respectfully ask for a favorable recommendation for HB 135.