



February 16, 2022

Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility (SB 292)
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairperson Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee:

Blue Water Baltimore is a nonprofit organization with a mission to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment and thriving communities. **I am here today in support of Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility (SB 292).**

Single-use plastics cause major pollution problems throughout our watershed. They litter our neighborhoods, depress property values, clog storm drains and exacerbate flooding, and get into our waterways where they choke plant life and animals. Our Waterkeeper team sees plastic pollution every time they patrol our waterways. Since 2019, our organization alone has removed more than 17 tons of trash from our parks and neighborhoods, most of it consumer packaging.

We cannot continue to burden our communities with the full responsibility for our economy's over-reliance on single-use plastic. This bill begins to hold corporate interests accountable for their industry's damage, and it is imperative that we continue to fight for local control and oversight of its implementation. As a watchdog organization, we know very well that industry self-regulation will never produce good results for our neighbors.

By limiting the amount of single-use plastic items being distributed across our state, SB 292 is an example of an "upstream" approach to pollution that will help build toward a zero waste future. We urge a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leanna Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Leanna" and "Powell" being significantly larger and more decorative.

Leanna Powell
Director of Development and Communications

¹ Duncan J.J. Kessler. (2019). [Plastic Straw Bans Can Run Afoul of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). American University Law Review.



Middle Branch Park, Baltimore, MD. Photo Credit: Cody Matteson, Blue Water Baltimore.



Powder Mill Run, Baltimore, MD. Photo Credit: Alice Volpitta, Blue Water Baltimore.



Gwynns Run, Baltimore, MD. Photo Credit: Blue Water Baltimore.



Ferry Bar Park, Baltimore, MD. Photo Credit: Blue Water Baltimore.