

Hello, I am Barbara Sollner-Webb and I am strongly urging you to please vote against two bills that would greatly weaken and bag legislation: HB 947 (that wants to cap the charge) and HB 1067 (mandating exemptions from the bag fee for people on SNAP and WIC).

HB 947 would prevent stores from charging customers what the bags actually cost them. Specifically, Aldi, Lidl, and MOM's Organic Market already charge more than 10 cents just to recoup the costs of paper bags. If they were forced to charge less, it would just raise the overhead cost that everyone pays for, including folks who bring their own reusable bags. Further, if you cap the charge, the incentive to switch to reusable bags or no bags will decline over time with inflation, resulting in more and more paper bag use, which is also bad for the environment. Further, it t.

For HB 1067 (mandating exemptions from the bag fee for people on SNAP and WIC) - Prince George's County already had a robust discussion on how to help low-income shoppers participate, including a discussion of possible SNAP/WIC exemptions. The legislators came to the conclusion that the preferred approach was to make sure that low-income shoppers were fully informed about what to expect at checkout (including by signage) and that they would have access to reusable bags (instead of exempting people from the behavior change). That policy has been highly successful in getting people to bring their own bag or not take one. It would be inappropriate for the state to get involved at this point, over-ruling the decision of local residents, and would likely reduce the effectiveness.