

**Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Testimony on: HB1166 Howard County - Authority to Impose Fees for Use of Disposable Bags Ho. Co. 04-19**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: March 12, 2019**

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

We see them waving at us in the trees. We see them floating along the sides of the road. We see pictures of them washed up on beaches...sometimes entangled around dead marine life. Plastic Bags. Not exactly the landscape we hope for in our world.

If you have ever watched a nature channel on television, you may have seen that animals can sometimes get caught up in plastic bags and can't get out of them. Turtles eat jellyfish. If plastic bags are in the ocean, turtles can think they are jellyfish and will try to eat them. Plastic bags can entrap fish and waterfowl causing them to suffocate. When they do that, it messes up their digestive system and can cause great harm -maybe death - to the turtle. Plastic bags are a danger to us, marine animals, and land animals.

We are still part of this wonderful planet that was clean, clear, and easy for life to be in. With our inventions, we have disturbed the cycle of life. Plastic not only hurts the environment, but also the air we breathe in. Plastic bags are an unnecessary convenience. Having to pay for the convenience of using plastic bags may dissuade people from using them and may encourage the habit of bringing reusable bags to the store instead.

Passing this legislation is a step toward a healthier environment and healthier population. It will have a great impact on our world. Help make this world a safer, cleaner place for this generation and the future generations. Please act now.

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