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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 296**

**TITLE:**             Environment – Single-Use Plastic Straws – Use in a Food Service Business

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Love

**COMMITTEE:**      Economic Matters

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 19, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 296 – Environment – Single-Use Plastic Straws – Use in a Food Service Business. This bill prohibits food service businesses from providing single use plastic straws unless they are requested by the customer.

Plastics and microplastics in our waterways pose substantial risks to personal health, marine health, and ultimately the health of the planet. They disrupt marine food chains, poison our seafood, and destroy flora essential to the health and longevity of our marine ecosystems. In the past year, disposable plastic straws have rightfully come under fire for being a prevalent single use plastic which contributes to the deterioration of the planet’s environmental health. This bill would significantly lower the use of these straws by requiring that they be requested as opposed to automatically served. This would decrease the demand for plastic straws in dine-in establishments and ultimately reduce their production.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 296. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.