



Date: February 19, 2020

Bill: House Bill 354 – Solid Waste Management- Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments- Prohibition

Position: Support

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Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **House Bill 354 – Solid Waste Management- Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments- Prohibition**, which will reduce the harmful impacts single-use plastic items have on wildlife across Maryland.

The National Aquarium welcomes 1.3 million people a year and is committed to raising public awareness of the negative impact plastic pollution has on the health of people, wildlife and ecosystems. We have seen the serious impact plastic pollution is having on wildlife—especially aquatic species—worldwide. Plastics are a hazard for wildlife and the habitats they depend on for survival.

An estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the ocean each year; that is equivalent to at least one dump truck full of plastic entering the ocean every minute. If current practices continue, plastic in the ocean could outweigh fish by 2050. While these plastics break down into smaller pieces, they never completely disappear from the environment. The best solution is to reduce the use of disposable plastic.

We believe that plastic pollution is an issue we can solve in our lifetime. Requiring that lodging establishments provide certain amenities in bulk will reduce overall plastic use, increase public awareness of the impact single-use plastic products have on the environment, while at the same time potentially save businesses money by providing fewer single-use items.

By passing HB 354, Maryland will reduce the amount of harmful plastic entering waterways and littering communities. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 354.**

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