



February 4th, 2020

Stuart T. Proctor
The Downtown Sailing Center

RE: Support of Maryland House Bill HB0209, "Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act"

To Whom it Concerns,

I vehemently support Delegate Lierman's proposed bill HB0209. As the Executive Director of The Downtown Sailing Center, Baltimore City's Community Sailing Center, I am quite familiar with plastic carryout bags in my work environment. They plague the streets, they infiltrate the storm drains, and then they end up in our waterways. These bags, by the thousands, float around for weeks until they wash up on our shores or sink to the bottom, without decomposing. These bags are a crisis for our shores and a crisis for our waters.

To be frank, this crisis is not just an urban crisis. As a recreational boater, I have had carryout bags negatively impact my recreational experience on every waterway I have been on, even in St. Mary's County. Take a walk down to Ego Alley and see for yourself. It is not just a Baltimore problem: it is a Maryland problem.

These modern conveniences will never go away. Basic science shows the plastic will always remain, eventually contaminating our bodies due to the high amounts of plastic in our diets. These well-intentioned bags are never out of sight for the youth who sail on our waters and play on our shores. There is no other solution to reducing their impact: we must eliminate them from our consumption process. Just like smoking, consumption will not be reduced to suitable levels unless there is government intervention.

I ask for those who will listen to consider our children; consider those who spend money recreating on and along our waterways; consider the enormous sums of money being spent in an attempt to remove a product that does not need to exist in the first place.

Sincerely,

Stuart T. Proctor
Executive Director