

## **FELLS POINT MAIN STREET**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 209/SB 313  
Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act \* February 2020

I write today on behalf of Fells Point Main Street in support of the Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act, introduced by Del. Lierman and Sen. Augustine. This bill would ban plastic bags from distribution by stores at the point of sale and require stores to charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag or reusable carryout bag for sale.

This legislation is important for many reasons:

- It will clean up our communities and neighborhoods
- It will clean up our waterways and the Bay
- It will ensure that consumers only pay for what they need – if they do not need a paper bag, they will not need to buy one
- It will hold retailers harmless so that they continue to operate and expand food access to all neighborhoods, including under-resourced neighborhoods
- It will save residents, local governments, and businesses money spent on clean up and trash disposal

In 2018 Fells Point businesses /commercial property owners advocated for the Business Improvement District and the contracting of The Waterfront Partnership. This was in large part due to the scattered waste of bags and single use plastic trash in the neighborhood. This added tax expense was overwhelmingly supported because the business community realized the value of a cleaner and greener neighborhood.

Thank you for considering this legislation. We urge a favorable report.

Darin Mislán  
President Fells Point Main St