



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 209

February 11, 2020

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 209 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 209.

HB 209 would prohibit a store from distributing plastic single use carry out bags to a customer at the point of sale. The bill would require a store to charge and collect at least 10 cents for each durable carryout bag the store provides to a customer. The legislation also authorizes a store to retain all money collected under certain circumstances and provides certain penalties for violations under this Act. Finally, the bill also establishes the Single-Use Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding single use products.

Recently, Baltimore City joined the increasing number of jurisdictions around the world, across the nation, as well as Montgomery and Howard Counties by adopting a local version of a ban on single-use plastic bags.¹ As Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young noted in his remarks while signing Ordinance 20-337 into law, banning plastic bags creates "...cleaner neighborhoods and waterways so we can leave our City and State to our children better than which we found it."²

HB 209 will create a uniform ban across all Maryland political subdivisions that is consistent with the values outlined by Mayor Young in Baltimore City's local law. Though HB 209 differs from Baltimore City's local ordinance, the BCA believes that both bills are comprehensive, enforceable, and advance the goal of creating clean, healthy communities across all of Baltimore's neighborhoods while expanding it to include every part of our State.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 209.

¹ Ianetta, Jessica, "Mayor Young signs law banning plastic bags in Baltimore," Baltimore Business Journal, Jan. 13, 2020, available at <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2020/01/13/mayor-young-signs-law-banning-plastic-bags-in.html>. Last accessed Feb. 10, 2020.

² Davis, Amy, "Mayor Young signs plastic bag ban." The Baltimore Sun, Jan. 13, 2020, available at <https://www.baltimoresun.com/a753a1f4-0ae4-4468-a2f8-569202802408-132.html>. Last accessed Feb. 10, 2020.