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Together Strengthening Our Community

February 19, 2020

Chair Delores G. Kelley
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley,

Several weeks ago, on my normal morning drive, I started to count the number of plastic bags that hung in the trees along the mostly scenic 16-mile route. I lost count after 25. They were hanging in trees on both sides of the road in front of Watkins Park. There was barely a stretch that a plastic bag couldn't be seen. I hope you will make 2020 the year Maryland addresses plastic bags littering our parks, roadways, and neighborhoods.

I urge you to support HB 209/SB 313, the Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act, and create a statewide solution. The entire Prince George's County Council voted to support this legislation a few weeks ago.

Single-use plastic bags are a large source of the litter across Prince George's County and our entire state. They are virtually un-recyclable and do not biodegrade. They clog our recycling facilities and storm drains and are carried into our waterways. They are ingested by birds, fish and marine animals and pollute our food. They breakdown into microplastics and pollute our water. This matters not only for Prince George's County but for our entire state—from Cumberland to Havre de Grace to Ocean City.

Many retailers and restaurants across the state are already showing us that we can change behavior, improve our environment, and neighborhood quality of life. Costco, Lidl, and Aldi are some of the most popular, low-cost food stores and yet none provide free bags to customers. Whole Foods gives a credit to people who bring their own bags which can be donated to a local nonprofit and only provides paper options.

I deeply appreciate your commitment to the residents of Maryland and thank you for the hard work you will undertake this session. Should you have any questions or desire to speak with me further, please contact me on my cell 240-416-5803 or dmglaros@co.pg.md.us. I look forward to working with each of you to be part of the effort to reduce plastic bag litter in Maryland.

Together Strengthening Our Community,

Dannielle Glaros