



NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – www.NFIB.com/Maryland

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 313** – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland opposes Senate Bill 310 – legislation that would prohibit a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag” and requires a store to charge, collect, and retain at least 10-cents for each “durable carryout bag provided” to a customer.

Within recent years, scores of retailers nationwide and throughout Maryland have instituted their own reusable bag programs without the interference of government mandates. These programs have proven wildly successful in terms of reducing single use bag consumption and have encouraged consumers to bring their own reusable bags.

At the same time plastic bags provide a more affordable option for small retailers allowing them to keep costs down at the checkout counter. These plastic bags are not only less expensive for employers but can be recyclable as well.

While the provision requiring retailers to collect and retain at least 10-cents per “durable carryout bag” may mitigate costs for larger retailers, it will not make small businesses whole. Maryland’s small retailers do not purchase non-plastic bags at the same volume as their larger competitors. As a result they pay more per bag – 30-cents on average. Although there is no prohibition against charging 30-cents per bag, doing so would put our small retailers at an even larger competitive disadvantage.

For these reasons **NFIB opposes SB313** and requests an unfavorable committee report.