



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT
SB 223
Plastic Bag Reduction Act
Finance Committee

Good afternoon Chair Kelley, Vice-Feldman, members of the Finance Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and today, I represent the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. We support SB 223.

This bill bans single-use plastic bags for distribution at point-of-sale for all retail in the state, with some limited exemptions. Litter has a disproportionate impact on communities that lack adequate public services and have more blight. Studies demonstrate that it contributes to impaired mental health and quality of life. Plastic bags pollute our land and water. Because they are so lightweight, plastic bags can travel long distances by air and water. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources. The extraction and production of petroleum and natural gas creates greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming. Plastic bags never break down and are harmful to wildlife and marine life, and human health. Plastic bags are also costly to pay for and to clean up. They are also difficult to recycle.

We respectfully request a favorable report.