

**Bill:** HB 135

**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Position:** Support

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**HB 135 - Environment - Single-Use Plastics - Restrictions  
Support**

Dear Chairperson Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I support HB 135. While the use of a fork or straw may seem small in the scheme of Maryland's daily volume of waste generation, these items are actually prominent. The 2020 International Coastal Clean-up data identified plastic straws as the 7th most commonly collected type of trash. When I do trash pickup days in Baltimore City, plasticware and straws are always in the top five of items that we collect.

Just by requiring certain single use items to be offered or requested, will decrease this waste. Just this past weekend I picked up food at a restaurant and in my bag was a plasticware package that I did not ask. This type of plastic waste is easily preventable.

Unfortunately, when these unwanted items are disposed of in Baltimore, we incinerate them, creating polluted air, which causes asthma and created toxic ash which is then landfilled.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration.

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