



Bill: HB 135

Date: January 31, 2022

Position: Support

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

Dear Chairperson Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

We enthusiastically 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.

The Trash Free Seas Alliance, a national partnership of major corporations and conservation organizations, is implementing a strategy to reduce marine litter. HB 135 would implement one of their key strategies – increasing awareness. By requiring certain single use items to be offered or requested, our awareness and consciousness are triggered.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, as part of its marine micro-plastics work, has published a list of less environmentally damaging, alternative products. Montgomery County has published an extensive list of alternative food wares.

The adverse economic impact of litter has been confirmed again and again. The economic benefits of a clean Chesapeake Bay have also been documented. Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Washington D.C. have all enacted versions of this type of legislation. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Blue Water Baltimore

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

Clean Water Action

Climate Justice Wing, Maryland Legislative Coalition

Little Falls Watershed Alliance

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Public Interest Research Group

Ocean City Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation

Rock Creek Conservancy

Severn River Association

Takoma Park Mobilization

Trash Free Maryland

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

WISE

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