



**Show Your Support for the “Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act”  
Call Your Legislators Today - - They Want to Hear from YOU!!!**

To find your legislators go to this website and simply type in your home address. It is that easy!  
<http://mdelect.net/>

1. “Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in\_\_\_\_\_.
2. “I am calling to encourage support of the “Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act”. The bill numbers are HB0209 and SB0313. The bill sponsors are Delegate Brooke Lierman (Baltimore) and Senator Malcolm Augustine (Prince George’s County). Both bills have many co-sponsors.
3. “I am a member of Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church located in McElderry Park.
4. “I am seriously concerned about the impact plastic has on the environment. Plastic bags account for a significant portion of litter pollution in our communities and waterways, including streams and rivers that flow to the Chesapeake Bay.”
5. “I also want to express my concern about the health of Maryland's water and its impact on our communities, especially on children and future generations.”
6. Enactment of similar legislation in Washington D.C., has shown a 60% reduction in bag use, and a 60% reduction in litter.
7. “I support legislation that encourages citizens and businesses to greatly reduce their use of plastic bags. This is a small but vital step toward living in harmony with God’s Creation.”
8. “Thank you for your time.”

***Don’t Let BIG Money Drown Out What is Right For Your Community!***

In 2014 California passed statewide legislation to ban plastic bags with a 10-cent charge on paper bags. The bag industry spent \$3 million on a signature-gathering campaign to force the issue to referendum. The law is on hold pending the results of that election in November 2016. It is expected that the plastic bag industry and its allies will spend \$25 million on that campaign. And they are already spending big bucks in Maryland! Please make your voice heard.

***Other Actions to Add Momentum***

- Host “Bag It” Movie showing and discuss the movie
- Participate in a Stream Cleanup and see first-hand plastic bags in rivers/streams
- Write letter on Mosque/Congregation letterhead and send to IPC to add to other letters
- Attend Rally (when rescheduled)

## More Background Information on the “Bag Ban”- Keep Reading

- The goal of the bill is to get shoppers to switch from disposable to reusable bags, reducing litter in the state and reducing overhead costs for retailers. This legislation encourages people to change their habitual use of plastic bags because of the severe degradation plastic causes in our ecosystem.
- The bill bans plastic bags at checkout. If a customer wants a bag, they can pay 10 cents per paper bag. By simply making it impossible to use plastic bags, we will begin to break ourselves of this damaging addiction to plastic.
- Washington, DC and Montgomery County, Maryland have bag laws, requiring stores to charge 5 cents for each plastic or paper bag they distribute at checkout. Public and retailer support in DC is sky-high. 80 percent of people carry reusable bags with them, and plastic bag litter in streams (in both jurisdictions) is down 72% according to cleanup data from the Alice Ferguson Foundation.
- Adoption of this legislation would mean that the retailer keeps 5 or 7 cents of the charge and sends the rest back to the Comptroller, who then sends funds to county governments for specific environmental and food access purposes.
- Retailers currently spend approximately 2 cents per plastic bag and 5 to 7 cents per paper bag. This is why paper bags must be addressed in the bill—to push shoppers to use reusable and not just switch to the more expensive paper bag.
- The plastic bag provision is to reduce litter. The paper bag provision is to reduce retailer overhead.
- Why are we using fossil fuels that have been in the Earth for billions of years in order to produce a plastic bag that will be used once and thrown away?
- Bag bans are in place in all four counties of Hawaii.
- There are also similar bans or bag fees in place in more than 200 cities and counties around the country, mostly on the West Coast but also in Texas, Colorado, the Outer Banks, New York, and Maine.
- Countries like China, India, and Rwanda have also banned bags, and much of Europe requires retailers to charge for them. These laws have evolved over the past decade since they first emerged in the US.
- A plastic bag ban with a paper bag charge is the current best policy practice.