

Sayers, Margery

From: Judy Major <annusequi@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB64-2019 – Establish a Fee on Disposable Bags

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of CB64-2019, which will impose a fee of five cents on disposable plastic bags.

The devastating effects of plastic pollution have made headlines this past year. It is a crisis we can no longer ignore. Nearly two million single-use plastic bags are distributed worldwide every minute. New plastic production plants are being built along the Gulf coast and in the Rust Belt with a goal of increasing plastic production by 40% over the next decade. If plastic production isn't curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2050. The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year. According to Waste Management, only one percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling. That means that the average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest ends up in landfills as waste or worse as litter in the land and waterways of Maryland.

I was involved with the Howard County Green School program as an educator for the past 12 years, preparing our students to tackle some of the most challenging environmental issues we have ever faced. While at Forest Ridge Elementary School we implemented a plastic pollution awareness and action program that included Straw-Free Fridays in the cafeteria, but that is not enough. We need the county's help. A fee on plastic bags is the most effective way to create behavior change to reduce plastic pollution and thereby address this critical issue. This bill gives consumers a choice, as it is a completely avoidable fee. It also makes the important link between consumers' actions and the impact their actions have on the environment.

Montgomery County and Washington DC both have plastic bag taxes. Washington DC did a study examining the aftereffects of the bag tax and reported that during the years 2012 and 2013 residents used 60% fewer bags. Data from volunteer stream cleanups have shown a 72% decrease in the number of bags. Only 16% of residents and 8% of businesses opposed the law after it was enacted. There were similar findings in Montgomery County. Since January 2012, Montgomery County's bag tax revenue has yielded \$10.4 million for pollution and storm water control programs.

This is not simply an aesthetic issue. Plastics break down into micro-plastics, which are small enough to enter the food chain and release toxic chemicals into the environment. The Lancet Planetary Health Journal reported in October 2017 that 94% of tap water samples collected in the US were contaminated.

Autoimmune diseases such as juvenile type 1 diabetes, lupus, and MS are on the rise. One in twelve Americans will be afflicted with an autoimmune disease. Medical experts have concerns that the exposure to rapidly increasing environmental toxins is connected to the increase in autoimmune diseases. Wouldn't it be wise to reduce the introduction of plastic refuse into the environment where it has been shown definitively to harm the health of freshwater and marine organisms?

This is not an issue that we can delay addressing. We have the ability to reduce the use of single-use plastic in our county now. We must address this issue with urgency.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Judy Major
annusequi@verizon.net
10936 Kathleen Ct.
Columbia, MD 20144
410-730-4998

Sayers, Margery

From: Judy Major <annusequi@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB64-2019 – Establish a Fee on Disposable Bags

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Sayers, Margery

From: Judy Major <annusequi@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:25 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB64-2019 – Establish a Fee on Disposable Bags

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I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of CB64-2019, which will impose a fee of five cents on disposable plastic bags.

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From: Judy Major <annusequi@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:25 AM
To: Jones, Opel; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB64-2019 – Establish a Fee on Disposable Bags

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Sayers, Margery

From: Judy Major <annusequi@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB64-2019 – Establish a Fee on Disposable Bags

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Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Strozyk <Ann_Strozyk@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2019 1:20 PM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David
Subject: Re: CB64- sorry about wrong salutation!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear David Yungman,

I am writing today to ask that you support CB64, a fee on plastic bags.

Every minute of every day a garbage truck full of plastic enters our waterways. It is an environmental and health crisis unfolding before our eyes.

CB64 will not only address this crisis by reducing plastic, but it will also bring increased awareness to the community so we can move forward and turn the tide on plastic pollution. This bill gives consumers a choice as it is a completely avoidable fee. It also makes the important link between consumers actions and the impact their actions have on the environment. Best of all, fees have been proven to work to change behavior and reduce plastic pollution.

Let's be a leader in the state with this initiative as we know that plastics are directly connected to climate change and micro plastics have major effects on human health as well as in our ecosystem.

We do not have time to wait.

The County Council board has this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Let's make history.

Thank you for your support on CB64.

Sincerely,

Ann Strozyk
9534 Longview Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Ann Strozyk
HCPSS Environmental Educator
The Howard County Conservancy
410.465.8877

www.hcpss.org
www.hcconservancy.org
Twitter Follow @AnnStrozyk
#mystreamcounts

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Strozyk <Ann_Strozyk@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2019 1:19 PM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David
Subject: CB64

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Liz Walsh,

I am writing today to ask that you support CB64, a fee on plastic bags.

Every minute of every day a garbage truck full of plastic enters our waterways. It is an environmental and health crisis unfolding before our eyes.

CB64 will not only address this crisis by reducing plastic, but it will also bring increased awareness to the community so we can move forward and turn the tide on plastic pollution. This bill gives consumers a choice as it is a completely avoidable fee. It also makes the important link between consumers actions and the impact their actions have on the environment. Best of all, fees have been proven to work to change behavior and reduce plastic pollution.

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Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Strozyk <Ann_Strozyk@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2019 1:19 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: CB64

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Dear Liz Walsh,

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Let's be a leader in the state with this initiative as we know that plastics are directly connected to climate change and micro plastics have major effects on human health as well as in our ecosystem.

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Thank you for your support on CB64.

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Sayers, Margery

From: Paul & Mary Jo <mailto:fishers@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 2, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Djung@howardcountymail.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: Please support CB64

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member Jung,

I am writing today to ask that you support CB64, a fee on plastic bags.

Every minute of every day a garbage truck full of plastic enters our waterways. It is an environmental and health crisis unfolding before our eyes.

CB64 will not only address this crisis by reducing plastic, but it will also bring increased awareness to the community so we can move forward and turn the tide on plastic pollution.

This bill gives consumers a choice as it is a completely avoidable fee. It also makes the important link between consumers actions and the impact their actions have on the environment. Best of all, fees have been proven to work to change behavior and reduce plastic pollution.

Plastic bags in particular have a plethora of negative impacts:

Plastic bags are not biodegradable. They clog waterways, spoil the landscape, and end up in landfills where they may take 1,000 years or more to break up into ever smaller particles that continue to pollute the soil and water.

Plastic bags continue to release Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, as they break up.

Plastic bags also pose a serious danger to birds and marine mammals that often mistake them for food. Thousands die each year after swallowing or choking on discarded plastic bags.

Trillions of bags are produced yearly worldwide, with only 1% being recycled.

Finally, producing plastic bags requires millions of gallons of petroleum that could be used for transportation or heating.

We do not have time to wait.

The County Council board has this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Let's be that leadership others will follow. Let's make history.

Thank you for your support on CB64.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Fisher
8612 Water Fall Drive
Laurel, MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth Auerbach <rauerb@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 2, 2019 10:34 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support CB64 - plastic bag fee

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

I am writing today to ask that you support CB64, a fee on plastic bags.

CB64 will not only address the crisis of plastic pollution, but it will also bring increased awareness to the community so we can begin to turn the tide on this environmental and health hazard. Additionally, having less one-time use disposable waste in the county should help our serious problem with trash and littering.

This bill gives consumers a choice as it is a completely avoidable fee. It also makes the important link between consumers actions and the impact their actions have on the environment. Best of all, fees have been proven to work to change behavior and reduce plastic pollution.

I grew up in Montgomery County, MD, and still have family and friends who live there. Montgomery County has been collecting a bag fee approximately ten years. The first time I encountered it at a grocery store, I admit I was annoyed. However, I quickly became accustomed to it, and I found that bringing reusable bags to the store is easy. I've acquired all my reusable bags for free through business promotions and my workplace.

To demonstrate the disposable bag problem in Howard County, on March 2, 2019, I took photos of the disposable bags on the the Columbia Association public space and townhome association property behind the townhouses 9449 – 9467 Clocktower Lane in Columbia. I found over 30 bags in this relatively small plot. These bags are less than 200 yards from the Little Patuxent River, and are in an area which drains into it. So they are likely to eventually break up and end up in the Chesapeake Bay and beyond.



Plastic bags in particular have many negative impacts:

- * Plastic bags are not biodegradable. They clog waterways, spoil the landscape, and end up in landfills where they may take 1,000 years or more to break up into ever smaller particles that continue to pollute the soil and water.
- * Plastic bags continue to release Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, as they break up.
- * Plastic bags in drainage pipes pollutes water directly or indirectly.

* Plastic bags also pose a serious danger to birds and marine mammals that often mistake them for food. Thousands die each year after swallowing or choking on discarded plastic bags.

* Trillions of bags are produced yearly worldwide, with only 1% being recycled.

* Finally, producing plastic bags requires millions of gallons of petroleum that could be used for transportation or heating.

We do not have time to wait.

The County Council board has this opportunity to show leadership that the state and other districts will follow. Let's make history.

Thank you for your support on CB64 and all you do for Howard County.

Sincerely,

Ruth Auerbach
9455 Clocktower Lane
Columbia
District 3