From:

no-reply@howardcountymd.gov

Sent:

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 11:02 AM

To:

Subject:

obxbouyee12@gmail.com Council - Plastic bag TAX

First Name:

Daniel

Last Name:

Schiavone

Email:

obxbouyee12@gmail.com

Street

Address:

6238 Woodcrest Dr

City:

Ellicott City

Subject:

Plastic bag TAX

"I'm a 30 year county resident I raised 3 kids here and have enjoyed the parks and other perks of the county. I'm infuriated that you passed a plastic bag TAX. You don't call it a tax, but 4 cents goes to the county. FOR WHAT! If you're collecting revenue from tax payers, it's a friggin TAX! How about you MANDATE RECYCLING of the bags? This TAX isn't going to solve the problem of plastic bag usage, the CORE of the issue. I recycle

Message:

EVERYTHING I can from my house. What is the county doing to make it a greener county, taxing plastic bags! If that 4 cents is going towards a recycling option, I'll pay it. I read it's for cleaning the environment; an environmental cleaning TAX. Call it like it is! I'll do everything I can to avoid paying the most expensive county

in the state even more money. I thought the rain tax was ridiculous, you've kicked it up a notch."



Opel Jones, Ph.D.

# **Opel Jones**Legislative Session

**DECEMBER 2019** 

# Impacts of Amendments 1 and 2

### **Council Bill 64 - 2019**

	Year 1	Year 2
Net Revenue	\$439,000	\$685,400



#### **Howard County Council**

George Howard Building 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392 COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Mercer Rigby, Chairperson

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson

Deb Jung

Liz Walsh District 1

January 28, 2019

Clarence K. Lam, Senate Chair Howard County Delegation 420 Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Terri L. Hill, House Chair Howard County Delegation 214 House Office Building 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairpersons Lam and Hill and members of the Howard County Delegation:

The Howard County Council thanks you for soliciting our opinion on local bill Ho. Co. 04-19, concerning Howard County's authority to impose fees for the use of disposable bags. As defined in Ho. Co. 04-19, bags are considered disposable if they are less than 2.25 millimeters thick.

In this matter, the below-signed members of the Howard County Council support the approval of Ho. Co. 04-19, giving the County Council the authority to debate and discuss this issue with Howard County residents. Counties and municipalities across the United States have been given greater control over determining local environmental policy through similar enabling legislation.

However, while we support Ho. Co. 04-19, we also believe the Council should have greater purview over the scope of this discussion as it relates to setting local fees. Ho. Co. 04-19 includes the following provision:

Section 1. (C) (2): The fee imposed under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not exceed 5 cents for each disposable bag used.

The below-signed members of the Howard County Council would welcome greater local control over setting local tax policy and fees for disposable bags in Howard County. We look forward to hearing the Howard County Delegation's decision on this legislation.

Howard County Council, District 1

Opel Jones Howard County Council, District 2 Christiers Morar Righy Christiana Mercer Rigby

Howard County Council, District 3

Howard County Council, District 4

Howard County Delegation Howard County Council

fax: (410) 313-3297

http://cc.howardcountymd.gov

	Petition summary and	A FEE ON THE DISTER BUTON OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS WILL PROMOTE THE HEALTH, BAFETY, !
	ouckground	WELFACE AND CLEANLINES OF HUBBO CONUTY ITS CITE IS AND WILL ALTOS
-	Action pentioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT A FEE ON THE
		DISTERBUTION OF PROSING SHECKOUT BROSS BY RETAILUDES IN HOUSED COUNTY

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Action patitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned cazens who urge our leaders to act now to Support A FRE ON THE
	Distribution of 2000 steels of 2003 by \$510 years in half grown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL	DISTRICT
Miriam Bell	Mario Bell	1481 Grew Garth Columbia 1985	micbell@gmail.com	
Adam Bell	ada Boli	1 1	bolladamm@gmail.com	
Matt Three fort	Matthe I Sheefoot	9526 Good Lion Rol	Two Hoots Eychro.com	The second secon
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Beckey Brizzle	Branke	EELT Roll Rapt C. With	recky brazzlogajnila	
Jelani Franklin		ESUF Rell Right Co. mit	musicboxtracignilion	
Baue Casteel	Bus Etek	9549 Linglook Lane		
Valerie Barr	himbon	9579 Landbrezz Row	valeriekbarregmal.com	
McKynler Volentine	Ulles Volus	5674StevensForist RO	m.n.valentine@gina, com	2
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Karli Andrede	Hoch March	Will Encounter Ruw		Z
Emma Siddig	Emma Suldige	8871 Goose Landing	frantis à gnalia	` 2

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Petition summary and	A FEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHÉCLOUT BAGS WILL PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY,
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Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to Sto Mouth A FEE ON THE
	DISTRIBUTION OF PROSTS SHECKEUT, RASS AN RETAILLISEN IN HOUSEN COUNTY

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	0	Rd Columbia		·

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background	WELFARE AND CLEANITHEN OF YELLOW COULTY ITS CITY AND WILDLIFFE
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge cur leaders to act now to らいのにて A デモラ のい でん
	DISTERNITION OF PRISTIC SHECKOUT BROWS BY RETAILURES, IN HOUSED COUNTY

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Action politioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned crizens who urge our leaders to act now to Support A PSE on The
	PATRIBUTION OF SIBRE SHEETELT RICKS BY RETAILEDEN IN HAURING TOWNS

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Werdy Alberg	Show All D	6509 Carlindo Ave 21046	wendy.alberg@gmail.com	3
Emily Spalerman	Craily Spicers	16425 Camalo Dr Mount Airy, MD 21771		
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Petition summary and background	A FEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS WIT PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, WEIFALE AND CHEANITHES OF HOUSE CHUTY TO CITE OF AND WILL NITE.
	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to Su PORT A FEE ON THE
	DISTERPENDO OF PRODUCTION PROCESS OF RETAILIES IN HOUSEN COUNTY

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL	DISTRICT
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Pat Hersey	tarring Hersey	Solumbia, My 21545		2
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Evelyn M. Magren	July My Mog	S601 Thursderhill Rd - Columbia MD 21045	: .	. Z
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	background	WELFARE AND CLEANITHES OF HUDOLOGULLY, IS CITAGED AND WILD ITEE.		
	Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to 'Su Prozet A Files の かん		
		DISTRUBUTION OF PROSITE SHECKOUT BASS BY RETAILLIER IN HOUSED SOUDTY		

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL	סופדינוכד
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Paul Verchinik	A.	5475 Herpma log	Verchinski e yahov.com	2
Barbara Schmeckpeper Leannl Pietanie C	Barbarof Schmickfuper	6305 Summererestor Columbia MD 21045	bjschmeck@gmail.com	2
Leanne Pretanie C	Luptie	9621 Pastora Pl Columbia, MO 21045	16 rittain_23@hotmalson	2
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Petition summary and	A FEE ON THE DISTERBUTION OF PLASTIC CHÉCICOUT BAGS WII PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY,
background	WELFARE AND CLEANITURES OF HOUSED GUNTY. ITS CITETIES AND WILDITES.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to Su Proとて A デモモ ON THE
	DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC SHECKOUT BASS ON RETAILIES, IN HOUSED COUNTY

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL DISTRICT
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### SUPPORT A FEE ON

### Petition to PLASTIC BAGS IN Holo

	Petition summary and	A FEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS WILL PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, !	Ī
	background	WELFARE AND CLEANITHES OF HUBBOCHNIN, ITS CITEBER AND WILDITEE	
	Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT A FEE ON THE	
1		DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS BY RETAILLERS IN HOWARD COUNTY	

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL	DISTRICT
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	Petition summary and background	A FEE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS WILL PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY	1
		WELFARE AND CLEANITURES OF HOUSE GOVERN TO COTTURE AND WILL STEE.	
	Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT A FEE ON THE	
-		DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC CHECKOUT BAGS BY RETAILLERS, IN HOUMED COUNTY	ı

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Petition summary and hackground	A FEE ON THE DISTRIBUTOR OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS WII PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY,
Action patitioned for	WEIFARE AND CLEANTINGS OF HOUSE COURT ITS CITY IN AND WICHTER.  We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT A FEE ON THE
	DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT PLAGS BY RETAILIBEN IN HOUSED COUNTY

	Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL	DISTICT
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	WEIFARE AND CLEANITIES OF HOUSE GLUTY, IS CITEGRE AND WILD ITE.
Action pullimed for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to Su Plact A PEE ON THE
L	DISTERALMON OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS BY RETAILIBEN IN HOUSES GOLDTY

Printed Name	Migrature	Address	EMAIL	DISTRICT
PRAGNA		7105 SAMUELS LANE	pragna, beganail. com	2
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Amy DALY	Toward .	8482 Haysted Lin	amjualij@gnak	2
Nick Ladisup	Souther	"	rickloss region la	2
MELSA Abily	Manualburn	9814 NorthbackeCH	Vancessa. about & yahuru	,
ZdCh T	Like Duck	9466 Farceller C	Jun Sc	2
			·	

From:

Sara Keller <sarackeller81@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 9:17 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

**CB64** 

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

Hello,

Please support CB64 as written, with a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Sara Keller

8229 Rippling Branch Rd

Laurel

From: Patricia Hooker <patricia\_wills@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:54 PM

To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail

Subject: CB 64

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

#### Dear Council Members,

In my original letter to you about CB64 I described how my behavior relative to plastic bags was changed due to my experience of grocery shopping weekly for my daughter in Montgomery County. It took a while for that to happen for me in Howard just because of habit, but as I mentioned I now use only reusuable bags. I do believe that charging the fee is a gentle reminder to do the right thing for the sake of the planet and that it may take a while to see results just due to habit.

I understand that an amendment to CB64 has been proposed which would be a ban on plastic bags. I believe an outright ban would cause a great deal of anger and disruption in the community whereas a fee for the bags gives people a choice and is more likely to change behavior in the long run.

I hope you will vote for the original bill as written.

Thank you, Patricia Hooker 1175 Hoods Mill Rd Cooksville. MD 21723

410-489-4314

From:

Kimberlee Drake < kimdrakeenv@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 1:53 PM

To: Subject: CouncilMail CB64 Bag fee

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I know you have difficult decisions to make this evening and I would like to submit my final thoughts.

I believe the best course of action at this time is to pass the bag fee legislation without an amendment to ban plastic bags. Studies show a fee decreases the use of disposable bags more than a ban. In fact, some municipalities have undone their bans in favor of a fee.

A fee will give the county funds to support the environmental education needed to prepare Howard County for a ban in the future.

Please support a Fee on disposable bags tonight!

Then work with your environmental community on a future ban and/or fee on paper bags.

Thank you,

Kim Drake

District 2

From:

Linda Bolen < lcbolen7@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 12:48 PM

To:

CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones,

Opel

Subject:

Please support CB64 as written

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

Please Support CB64 as written, with a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Linda Bolen

11101 Resort Rd # 237

Ellicott City, MD. 21042

From: Sent: Carter < carterclan 2001@gmail.com>

To:

Monday, December 2, 2019 12:04 PM

To: Cc: CouncilMail; Knight, Karen Yungmann, David; Jones, Opel

Subject:

Bag Tax

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

Dear Howard County Members,

I am writing in support of the bag tax bill with ammendments. I would like to see a portion of the money raised used to incentivize stores, especially big box/grocery stores, to start a express lane program for customers who bring their own bags and study the effectiveness of such a program. A carrot and stick approach to change habits to lower the dependency on plastic bags. Saving money and time are good incentives for customers and the combination of both may prove more effective than solely fees and ban have been. Express check out lanes in other industries such as airlines, 12 items, hotels, etc. have been proven effective incentives.

Sincerely, Catherine Carter

From:

Peter Edelen <peter.edelen@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 11:32 AM

To:

Walsh, Elizabeth

Cc:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB64-2019

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

Dear Liz and council members,

We need something that changes behavior and does not profit from it. I support Amendment 3 and do not support Amendment 1.

The eventual ban of plastic bags is the only thing that will keep plastic bags out of the landfills and the waterways. They are not easily recyclable without extra effort by the consumers since they cannot go in with regular recycling and have to be dropped off or returned. Retail will continue to use plastic bags if they can profit from them and consumers will continue to use plastic bags as long as they are available. A small fee will not change behavior. Changing behavior is really the point after all.

Thanks for your consideration.

Peter Edelen 8380 Main Street

From:

Jung, Deb

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 10:56 AM

To:

Savers, Margery

Subject:

FW: CB64-2019

----Original Message----

From: Jack Smoot < jacksmoot@me.com> Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 3:41 PM To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: CB64-2019

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

Hello, my name is Jack Smoot and I am a Boy Scout in Troop 618 of Clarksville MD. I am sending this email in regards to the current legislation surrounding the Disposable Plastic Bags - Fees act. This legislation, if passed would put into place many restrictions and fees when it comes to the use of disposable plastic bags, which are a serious environmental concern. I'm sure you know more than me when it comes to this proposal and what it entails, so I was wondering a few things. Do you, or do you not support it, and why or why not? What do you think are some major impacts of this act? How will this affect everyday life of different people? And finally how can young people contribute to this solution? in my opinion the environmental benefits of this act far outweigh the possible difficulties and problems that businesses might have, and therefor I am in support of this act.

Most Sincerely, Jack Smoot

From: Julia McCready <divajackson@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:43 AM

To: CouncilMail

**Subject:** In support of Howard County Plastic Bag Fee Legislation CB64-2019

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

I support the bill as it was originally written. Outright bans have proven to be ineffective.

Thank you,

Julia A McCready 5745 Thunder Hill Road Columbia MD 21045

From:

Kristina Strakna <strakool@verizon.net>

Sent:

Monday, December 2, 2019 9:07 AM

To:

Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail

Subject:

Please Support CB64 with no amendments

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

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am writing today to ask you to support CB64 **as written**, with no amendments. I believe that a fee should be charged on plastic bags at this time. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior. An outright ban on plastic bags does not allow consumers to make the vital linkage between their actions and the environment, and is not the ideal starting place from which to change consumer behavior.

Besides, this bill is bigger than plastic bags. CB64 is about a necessary cultural shift to change our society's throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban. In its current form, I think CB64 is a great starting point, and leaves room to ban plastic bags entirely in the near future.

Sincerely, Kristina Strakna 6008 Middlewater Court Columbia, MD 21044

From:

Cathie Leimenstoll <cathie.leimenstoll@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:39 PM

To:

Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail

Subject:

CB64

[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 encourage your vote on CB64 as it is written. This would charge a small fee for plastic bags. The environmental issues that face us are growing more serious by the day and this is an important step that raises awareness and gives each individual a way to be involved. Not charging a fee for using plastic bags means we aren't really serious about taking on these issues. Thank you for all you are doing for this county and for the seriousness with which you take your responsibilities. Sincerely, Cathie Leimenstoll 11243 Chase Street, #1 Fulton, MD 20759

From:

Kelly Hensing <kelly\_hensing@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:21 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Cc:

dyungman@howardcountymd.gov

Subject:

CB64-2019

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

I would like to request that you support amendments 1, 2 & 3 to this bill.

Especially amendment 3! A ban only makes sense. Montgomery County has shown that a tax does not improve the reduction of plastic bags.

Thank you-

Kelly Hensing www.hensingfarm.com

From:

Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 7:56 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

Please support CB64 with a fee

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

#### Dear Councilwoman Walsh,

Please Support CB64 as written, with a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Robin Hessey 10768 McGregor Dr Ellicott City, MD 21044

From:

Steven Bolen <stevenmbolen@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 6:51 PM

To:

Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David

Cc:

CouncilMail

Subject:

SUPPORT CB64-2019 (BOLEN)

**Attachments:** 

HoCo CB64-2019 SUPPORT 01DEC2019 (BOLEN).pdf; HoCo CB64-2019 SUPPORT -

Analysis 01DEC2019 (BOLEN).pdf

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

Dear Howard County Council,

Please Support CB64 as written, with a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Bolen

11101 Resort Rd. #237

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Howard County Council 3430 Court House Dr. Ellicott City, MD 21043

December 1, 2019

#### **Howard County Council Bill 64-2019**

AN ACT to require a specified fee on certain disposable bags

#### SUPPORT WITH AMMENDMENT

Dear Howard County Council,

I live in County Council District 5, and I support CB 64-2019 but offer an amendment for your consideration. First, I believe that our world is undergoing significant environmental changes due to pollution resulting from human activity. There was overwhelming and convincing testimony given during the public hearing on November 18 supporting this Bill, so I will not repeat all of that testimony here. But, I do wish to remind the Council of two important items:

- The Maryland Retailers Association was not in objection to the Bill, in principle, but since it did not include a fee on paper bags, they expressed concern that consumers would shift to using paper, which would place a greater cost burden on retailers without compensation.
- While it is true that plastic bags will not compost like paper or reusable cotton canvass totes
  and will exist in the environment almost indefinitely, the manufacture of paper is extremely
  polluting on the environment and nearly so is the cultivation and production of cotton
  material. So, the whole lifecycle "environmental" cost of an item must be considered manufacture, distribution/retail cost burden, and termination of the product.

As a free-market, fair-trade, capitalist, ideally, I believe that the consumer market should be as free as possible from government interference, that people should have choices, and that entrepreneurs should be free to fulfill consumer needs. That is our economic system.

However, acting in good faith on behalf of their constituents, and to protect public health, safety, and the environment, I also believe that government can, at times, impose restrictions or fees on certain specific items.

In as much as I would rather not impose fees/taxes on any consumer product to change behavior, I believe that banning a product is a far more serious infringement on consumers' rights to access an open and fair-trade marketplace.

Though certain products may require a "ban" restriction in the consumer marketplace, thin, single-use plastic bags are not one of them. If the Council imposes a ban on the use of these types of bags, then it should also consider:

Bolen/CB64-2019 1/2

- That banning thin, single-use plastic bags would set a precedent that would be hard to ignore should any other group bring forth a product that they deem unacceptable in our community. In the name of public health, safety, and the environment, the Council should want to ban sugary-drinks, disposable, plastic water bottles (or, anything with a plastic component), alcohol (i.e., make Howard a "dry county"), vaping products, and all tobacco products including cigarettes, (to name a few products), etc.
- As a reminder, cigarettes are not banned. They are taxed. That is the precedent that has been set to change public behavior. The "heavy hand" of government should not be used to ban thin, single-use plastic bags since this would lead consumers no choice but to use paper or the more readily available cotton totes. Neither of these choices will end the impact on our environment. Then, also, why not ban paper bags, as well? Or, cotton in favor of more ecologically friendly materials such as hemp fiber in totes? Where does the "banning" end?
- The elderly, infirm, and people with cognitive and physical disabilities need carry-out totes with handles on them. If plastic bags are to be banned, then the Council should also mandate that all paper bags used shall have handles. But, of course, paper bags with handles do not hold up as well as plastic bags especially for those who need to take public transportation and are holding the bags, on some occasions, for very long transit times. Or, if they are carrying their bags through inclement weather conditions.

In the end, I feel that the real intent of the fee on thin, single-use plastic bags is not to eliminate their use (since the alternatives have their own life-cycle, environmental issues). But, rather to raise public awareness about the responsible use of products being used and the impact on our environment. We are a "disposable-use" society. We use and discard products sometimes indiscriminately and without discretion. Especially if a product is offered to us for free, it can lead to abuse, misuse, and overuse if there is no economic incentive to reuse or reduce its use. That is just plain old common sense.

A fee is needed to incentive change and to encourage responsible consumer consumption habits, something a ban will not do.

I support CB 64-2019, but I respectfully request the Council's consideration to add an amendment to waive the fee for seniors, the infirm, people with cognitive or physical disabilities, and for those in low-income groups.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven M. Bolen

11101 Resort Rd. #237 Ellicott City, MD 20142

St M 30

Bolen/CB64-2019 2/2

Howard County Council 3430 Court House Dr. Ellicott City, MD 21043

December 1, 2019

#### **Howard County Council Bill 64-2019**

AN ACT to require a specified fee on certain disposable bags

#### **SUPPORT**

Dear Howard County Council,

I live in County Council District 5, and I support CB 64-2019. Following is my analysis of the impact of the Montgomery County Bag Fee Bill (08-11) on the usage of thin, single-use plastic bags in Montgomery County that I posted on my social media earlier this year. My analysis is based on economic activity as the driver for the utilization of these types of bags.

Respectfully Yours,

St M X

Steven M. Bolen 11101 Resort Rd. #237 Ellicott City, MD 21042

#### Do Fees on Thin, Single-Use, Plastic Bags Really Work to Curb Their Use?

Steven M. Bolen April 15, 2019

Now that the Maryland General Assembly has passed a Bill (HB 1166) that will allow Howard County to impose a 5-cent fee on thin, single-use, plastic bags the question is: "Would such a fee work to curb consumer use of these thin plastic bags?"

There's an argument out there that says that it hasn't worked very well in Montgomery County which has imposed a fee since July 1, 2012. Except for 2018, which showed a slight decrease in usage from the previous year, Montgomery County records show that the number of bags collected under their program has actually increased every year.

Proponents of the bag fee say that the increase in the number of bags being used may be attributed to Montgomery County's growth in population. So, of course, as the number of residents goes up so too will the number of bags being used. Opponents say that the rate of

Bolen/CB 64- 2019 1/3

bag use is going up faster than the population is increasing (or, at least keeping pace); hence, the bag fee is doing nothing to curb the appetite for their use.

However, I wonder if population growth is the right metric to use to determine plastic bag consumption? About a decade ago our country hit bottom on a pretty deep recession. The economy has rebounded and has been growing ever since. When Montgomery County imposed its bag fee starting in fiscal year 2013, the economy was expanding. As the economy began to grow more "things" were being bought. So, it might be fair to assume that as more things were being bought, then more single-use plastic bags were being used to carry those "things" out of the store.

So, rather than looking at bag use as a function of population growth, I decided to look at bag use compared to economic activity. As economic activity increases, we would expect to see more bags being used. (Similarly, a decrease in economic activity should see fewer bags being used.)

The measure I decided to use to determine economic activity was the sales tax receipts for Montgomery County. Specifically, I decided to look at sales receipts from the Food and Beverage Group that covers shops such as independent grocery stores, supermarkets, and restaurants, etc. and the General Merchandise Group that covers department stores, drug stores, and discount stores, etc. All of which would be covered under the Montgomery County bag fee if they supply the thin, single-use bags to their customers.

In fiscal year 2013, the first year of the bag fee, the number of bags Montgomery County counted was 60,600,732. The sales receipts for the groups mentioned above for that year was \$247,220,313. The ratio of bags to receipts is 0.2451. In 2018, the number of bags counted was 65,289,202, and the sales receipts were \$270,305,432. The ratio for 2018 is 0.2415. The smaller ratio in 2018 indicates that bag usage is dropping off.

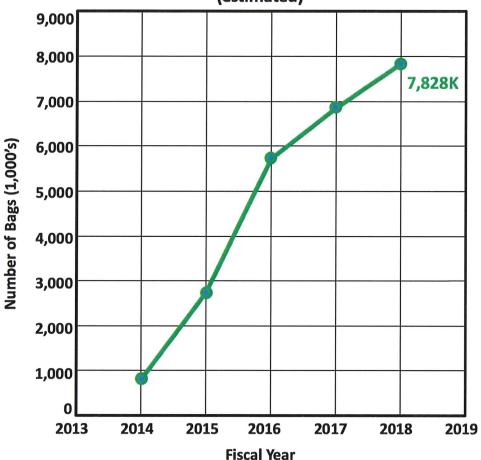
The difference in ratios between 2013 and 2018 doesn't seem like much. However, if you consider the number of bags being used, it adds up to be quite a bit. If the same ratio of bags used to sales receipts collected in 2013 was applied to 2018, it would have resulted in nearly a million more bags being used in 2018 than what was actually used. (The 2013 ratio (0.2451) x the 2018 sales receipts (\$270,305,432) = 66,251,861 bags that might've been counted compared to the 65,289,202 that were actually counted. The difference is 962,659 bags being kept out of the environment in 2018.)

Although bag usage (using my method) seems to have gone up in 2017 and 2018 from its low point in 2016, the rate of bags used in those years was still less than in 2013. We will have to see if bag usage as compared to economic activity continues to rise in 2019 and beyond. But, for now, using the 2013 ratio as the baseline, I estimate that from 2014 to 2018, Montgomery County has kept nearly 8 million of the thin, single-use, plastic bags out of their environment. My attached graph shows the estimated, cumulative number of bags that would have been counted without the imposition of the bag fee.

Bolen/CB 64- 2019 2/3

What is heartening, is that, so far, the overall trend in the number of bags being saved is up. That is, Montgomery County can continue to look forward to keeping more bags from entering their landfills, rivers and streams, and from cluttering up their roadsides.

Cumulative Number of Additional
Single-Use Bags That Would've Been Counted w/o the Fee
(estimated)



My data sources and more info here:

Montgomery County Bag Count Data: <a href="http://bit.ly/2ID0cmZ">http://bit.ly/2ID0cmZ</a>

Maryland Sales Receipts Data: <a href="http://bit.ly/2vdmpA9">http://bit.ly/2vdmpA9</a>

Montgomery County Bag Fee Bill (08-11): <a href="http://bit.ly/2P9UJ81">http://bit.ly/2P9UJ81</a> More Info on Montgomery County Bag Fee: <a href="http://bit.ly/2UXPePg">http://bit.ly/2UXPePg</a>

From:

Susanna Sung <susanna.s.sung@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, December 1, 2019 11:31 AM

To:

Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail

Subject:

Plastic bag vote

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

Please Support CB64 as written, with a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment. Research has also been clear that fees more effective and better for the environment than a ban: <a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2019/04/09/711181385/are-plastic-bag-bans-garbage">https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2019/04/09/711181385/are-plastic-bag-bans-garbage</a> (additional research supports this)

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely, Susanna Sung 9455 Sargossa Place Columbia, MD 21045

From:

Josie Casto < jlcasto@gmail.com>

Sent:

Saturday, November 30, 2019 8:34 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB-64-2019

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

Hello all,

I wanted to show support of CB-64-2019 with amendment 3 to transition the tax to a ban over time. I would hope the county uses some of the proceeds from the tax to provide free reusable bags to county residents so that those struggling to make ends meet aren't un-duly burdened by this bill.

I had one question for the council in addition to my comment. Does it apply to shopping bags at, say, the mall? In California where I have the most experience with bag taxes, I was still getting plastic bags when shopping at the mall.

If so, I think we should make constituents aware of this so they figure out a way to keep reusable food bags separate from reusable clothing bags available separate

**Thanks** 

Jocelyn Irwin VT 2008

3781 plum meadow dr

Sent from mobile

From:

Rose Edwards <rosewards@msn.com>

Sent:

Saturday, November 30, 2019 6:07 PM

To: Subject: CouncilMail CB 64-2019

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

I do not support a 5 cent tax on each plastic bag which will impact low income and young shoppers most while adding to the coffers of the business. I do, however, support a plastic bag ban that begins at the store. Studies from Montgomery County show that this tax does nothing to stop the number of single use plastic bags from leaving the store. It only serves to increase the revenue collected by the county, and that is not our goal....is it?

**Rose Edwards** 

Sent from my iPad

From:

pelefish@mindspring.com

Sent:

Friday, November 29, 2019 4:23 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB64

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

I support CB64!!!

From:

M. J. Loll and E. M. Salmon <wbnuthatch@verizon.net>

Sent:

Thursday, November 28, 2019 3:25 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB 64

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

Dear Council Members,

Please Support CB64 as written, a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Michael Loll 6642 Allview Drive Columbia, MD 21046

From:

Kate Copanic <kate@copanic.net>

Sent:

Thursday, November 28, 2019 10:09 AM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

Please ban plastic bags. Support CB64-2019

[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 do not believe that charging for plastic bags is really doing enough to stop the single-use plastic in our county. I see plastic bags littered when I take a walk, caught up on pushes and in creeks. Let's follow the lead of other places that have banned them outright and we can begin to form new habits like bringing our own bag.

Kate Copanic 5008 Ravenhill Row, Columbia

From: LELAND EWART <scott@scotteblog.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 6:22 AM

To: CouncilMail Cc: Jung, Deb

**Subject:** Support of amendment 3 to CB64-2019.

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

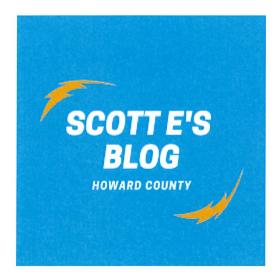
I am writing in support of amendment 3 to CB64-2019.

This amendment shows me that this legislation (if the amendment is passed) is really about reducing single use plastics and not about taking money from shoppers in our county. My hope is that all council members support this amendment.

Thank you Councilmember Deb Jung for filing this amendment.

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving.

Scott Ewart <a href="https://www.scotteblog.com">www.scotteblog.com</a> scott@scotteblog.com https://www.facebook.com/scotteblog/ https://twitter.com/scotteblog



From:

Pat Hersey <trishhersey@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 6:16 PM

To:

CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; Jung,

Deb

Subject:

Support CB64, a fee on plastic bags

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

Dear County Council members,

Please Support CB64 as written, a fee on plastic bags. Studies show that the fee is the most effective way to change behavior.

A ban dictates, does not give a choice and does not allow consumers to make the linkage between their actions and the environment.

This bill is bigger than plastic bags. This bill is about a necessary cultural shift to throw away our throwaway mentality that will not occur with a ban.

Sincerely,

Pat Hersey

9462 Farewell Rd.

From:

Gail Holm <gailholm@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 3:04 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB64

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

I support CB64. Please vote "yes." Thank you.

Gail P. Holm 10081 Fair Beauty, Columbia, MD 21046

Gail P. Holm

From:

Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 1:52 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

I support CB64

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

I strongly support CB64.

Robin Hessey 10768 McGregor Drive Columbia MD 21044

From:

christine.santosnurse@gmail.com

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 1:52 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB 64-2019

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

I support this bill. We have to aggressively reduce our negative impact on our planet. Our future generations rely on it.

**Christine Nurse** 

From:

Christine Crandell < chriscrandell 1@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 12:59 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB 64

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

I live in northern California half the year, where plastic bags are nearly non-existent and people bring their own reusable bags regularly.

Certainly, people can get used to bringing their reusable bags in Maryland, as well.

**Chris Crandell** 

From: Sent: Mary Rodgers <mary.rodgers@me.com> Wednesday, November 27, 2019 12:24 PM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

I support CB64

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

I support CB64!

Mary Rodgers 7553 Broadcloth Way Columbia, MD 21046

410-299-7445

From:

Carol LoSchiavo <clc826@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:58 AM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

CB-64

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

Hello,

I am writing you to express my opposition for CB-64. This bill is ridiculous! Howard County is already gouging us enough for Taxes and now the county is wasting time on this ridiculous Bill!

Please do not pass this bill. Just another reason for people to want to move out of what used be a nice place to live.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Loschiavo

Ellicott City

From:

dcrone6401@aol.com

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:42 AM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

Public Feedback on CB64-2019

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

I am writing in opposition of CB64-2019.

Here are some things the Howard County Council probably has not heard or considered during the bag fee / bag tax discussions:

- This is a punitive fee on shoppers which does nothing to prevent the stores from providing plastic bags at checkout.
- Stores have no incentive to stop providing plastic bags at checkout...the 1 cent for every 2
   bags they provide is an incentive for them to provide more plastic bags at checkout.
- Baltimore City Council just passed a ban on plastic bags, and <u>Westminster</u>, <u>Chestertown and Takoma Park</u> all have previously passed bans of plastic bags--not fees on bags. Are we following the goal of our County Executive in "making Howard County the most environmentally friendly jurisdiction in the state and region"? I think don't think so.
- And finally...after implementation, will the number of bags leaving stores be significantly reduced? The data from Montgomery County, which has a similar fee on plastic bags, does not show this. Learn more: <a href="https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance-Tax-Property/Number-of-Plastic-Bags-Taxed-Annually/chgm-72wc">https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance-Tax-Property/Number-of-Plastic-Bags-Taxed-Annually/chgm-72wc</a>

I am against this legislation. I would support a plastic bag ban similar to what other jurisdictions have put in place. A ban (even with exemptions similar to what Westminster passed) would accomplish the overall goal...significantly less plastic bags leaving stores and coming into our jurisdiction. Isn't that what the goal should be?

Because of the recent HCPSS redistricting process most people in the county do not know this is happening right now or that it may be decided upon soon. This topic was not even discussed at the most recent Howard County Council Work Session on November 22nd. There has been no discussion at all on the data from other jurisdictions that have imposed this fee. The one and only input public session on this

topic happened on November 18th when most of the county was watching the happenings of the HCPSS redistricting process at the final work session and preliminary decision meeting.

It is disappointing that this important legislation may be decided upon with little conversation or discussion with residents in this county and without any research that supports that this fee will invoke the change desired in Howard County (fewer plastic bags in the environment). I hope that all of these facts are discussed before making a final decision on this topic.

Thank you, Ronda Crone 7171 Moorland Drive, Clarksville

From:

brendagrahamintl <br/> brendagrahamintl@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:40 AM

To:

CouncilMail

Subject:

Vote NO to bag tax

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

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.

From: LELAND EWART <scott@scotteblog.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:36 PM

To: CouncilMail

**Subject:** Oppose CB64-2019

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

I am writing in opposition of CB64-2019.

Here are some things the Howard County Council probably has not heard during the bat fee / bag tax discussions:

- This is a punitive fee on shoppers while doing nothing to prevent the stores from providing plastic bags at checkout.
- Stores have no incentive to stop providing plastic bags at checkout...if anything the 1 cent for every 10 bags they provide is an incentive for them to provide more plastic bags at checkout (watch the double bagging practices coming soon to a store near you in Howard County. I do not know for a fact this will happen...just ranting a bit here).
- The fact that Baltimore City Council just passed a ban and <u>Westminster</u>, <u>Chestertown and Takoma Park</u> all have previously passed bans of plastic bags...are we following the goal of our County Executive by "Making Howard County the most environmentally friendly jurisdiction in the state and region is a goal of my administration..."? I think not.
- And finally...after implementation, will the number of bags leaving stores significantly reduce? Let's look at data from Montgomery County:



Data Catalog

Suggest a Dataset

Open Budget ~

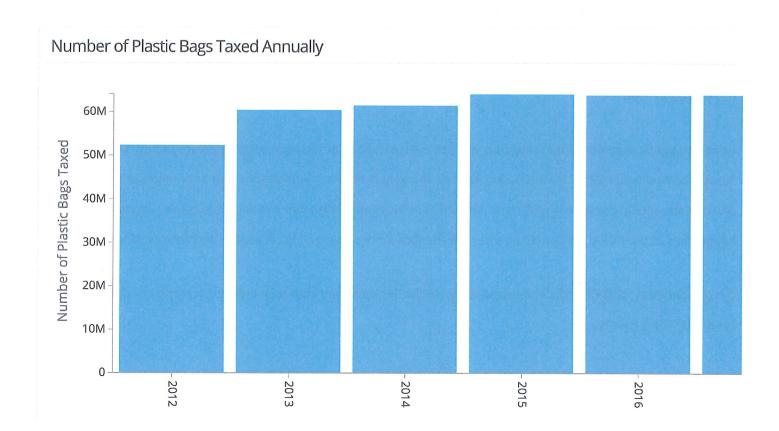
spendingMontgomery

CountyStat

Videos and Re

# Number of Plastic Bags Taxed Annually Finance/Tax/Property

More Info ∨



In 2013 (the first full year of the fee) the number of bags "Taxed" was 60,421,676.

In 2018 the number of bags "Taxed" was 64,149,805.

Learn more: <a href="https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance-Tax-Property/Number-of-Plastic-Bags-Taxed-">https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance-Tax-Property/Number-of-Plastic-Bags-Taxed-</a>

#### Annually/chgm-72wc

So far in 2019 (through October) the number of bags taxed is 55,896,833 (so on pace for over 61,000,000 bags taxed for the year).

Someone please show me the deep decrease in the number of bags being taxed and leaving stores in that jurisdiction

after implementation of this fee? If this really worked we should see that "60 million bags" leaving stores drop

significantly (say even drop to "50 million bags") by adding this punitive fee on shoppers for not bringing reusable bags

with them to stores after implementation of the fee. That data does not exist.

I remain fully against this legislation. I would fully support a plastic bag ban similar to what other jurisdictions have put in

place. A ban (even with exemptions similar to what Westminster passed) would accomplish the overall

goal...significantly less plastic bags leaving stores and coming into our jurisdiction...is that not what this is all about?

Maybe it is about something else all together.

Because of HCPSS redistricting most people in the county do not know this is happening right now or that it may be

decided upon soon.

I was also very disappointed that this topic was not even discussed at the most recent Howard County Council Work

Session on November 22nd. No discussion at all on the data from other jurisdictions that have imposed this fee. The one

and only input public session on this topic happened on November 18th when most of the county was watching the

happenings of the HCPSS redistricting process at the final work session and preliminary decision meeting.

It is disappointing that this important legislation may be decided upon with such little conversation or discussion with

residents in this county.

My hope it that all of these facts are discussed before making a final decision on this topic.

Thank you,

Scott Ewart

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