

Introduced	<u>2-3-2021</u>
Public Hearing	<u>2-16-2021</u>
Council Action	<u>3-1-2021</u>
Executive Action	<u>3-2-2021</u>
Effective Date	<u>6-2-2021</u>

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

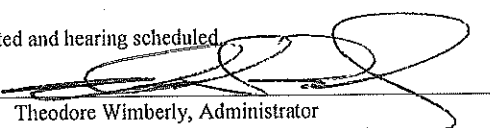
2021 Legislative Session


Legislative Day No. 3

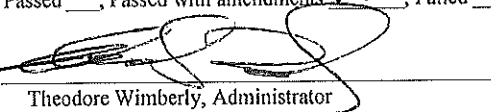
Bill No. 13 -2021


Introduced by: Christiana Rigby, Opel Jones, and Liz Walsh

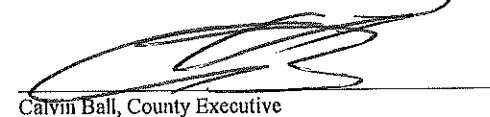
AN ACT to prohibit the sale or distribution of certain single-use straws and stirrers, certain condiment packets and certain plastic food ware by certain food service facilities and retail business entities under specified circumstances; providing for exceptions to the prohibition; requiring certain establishments to have specified materials; providing for enforcement of the prohibition; specifying the duties of the Office of Community Sustainability; requiring fines to be placed in a certain Fund; and generally relating to waste reduction in the County.

Introduced and read first time February 3, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled
 By order 
 Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on February 16, 2021.
 By order 
 Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on March 1, 2021 and Passed , Passed with amendments , Failed
 By order 
 Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 2nd day of March, 2021 at 12:15 a.m./p.m.
 By order 
 Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive March 2, 2021

 Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; Text in small capitals indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, The County Council adopted the Howard County 2014-2024 Solid Waste Management Plan
2 on May 4, 2015. The solid waste goals set forth in the Plan include promoting the reduction of
3 waste.

4 **WHEREAS**, There is a growing trend among local jurisdictions to prohibit or significantly curtail the use
5 of disposable packaging for food as a step towards protecting the environment.

6 **WHEREAS**, The County Council finds that disposable packaging for food is a component of roadside
7 and marine litter that harms waterways and aquatic life.

8 **WHEREAS**, Various County watershed protection and environmental organizations have advocated for
9 reducing or eliminating the use of disposable packaging for food to help address serious stream
10 degradation in the County.

11 **WHEREAS**, The County Council concludes that it is in the public interest to prohibit the use of some
12 disposable packaging for food under certain circumstances.

13
14 **Section 1.** *Be it enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County*
15 *Code is hereby amended as follows:*

16 *By adding:*
17 *Title 14 - Licenses, Permits and Inspections*
18 *Subtitle 12. Disposable packaging for food.*

19
20
21 **HOWARD COUNTY CODE**

22 **Title 14 - Licenses, Permits and Inspections**

23 **SUBTITLE 12. STRAWS; STIRRERS; DISPOSABLE PACKAGING FOR FOOD.**

24
25 **SEC. 14.1200. DEFINITIONS.**

26 IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

27 (1) *“FOOD SERVICE FACILITY”* HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 12.107 OF THE HOWARD
28 COUNTY CODE.

29 (2) (I) *“PLASTIC FOOD WARE”* MEANS ITEMS:
30 1. THAT ARE MADE FROM MATERIAL THAT IS AT LEAST 50% DERIVED FROM:
31 A. A PETROLEUM-BASED POLYMER; OR

1 B. A PLANT-BASED POLYMER, INCLUDING POLYLACTIC ACID (PLA); AND
2 2. THAT ARE SHAPED INTO:

3 A. SINGLE-USER CUTLERY;

4 B. A HOT OR COLD BEVERAGE CUP;

5 ~~C. A CUP LID;~~

6 ~~D. A PLATE;~~

7 ~~E. A BOWL;~~

8 ~~F. A BOWL LID;~~

9 ~~G. A CLAMSHELL FOOD CONTAINER;~~

10 ~~H. A TRAY; OR~~

11 ~~I. OTHER HINGED OR LIDDED FOOD CONTAINER.~~

12 (ii) "PLASTIC FOOD WARE" DOES NOT INCLUDE NON-PLASTIC CUPS, PLATES, OR BOWLS
13 WITH A POLYETHYLENE OR OTHER PLASTIC COATING OR A WAX COATING.

14 (3) "RETAIL BUSINESS" MEANS A BUSINESS OTHER THAN A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY THAT
15 SELLS GOODS DIRECTLY TO ULTIMATE CONSUMERS.

16
17 **SEC. 14.1201. SINGLE-USE STRAWS AND STIRRERS.**

18 (A) *PROHIBITION.*

19 (1) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL NOT SELL, DISTRIBUTE,
20 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE A DRINKING STRAW OR BEVERAGE STIRRER WITH FOOD OR A BEVERAGE, EXCEPT
21 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

22 (2) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A RETAIL BUSINESS SHALL NOT SELL OR OTHERWISE
23 DISTRIBUTE A DRINKING STRAW OR BEVERAGE STIRRER DIRECTLY TO AN ULTIMATE CONSUMER UNLESS
24 THE RETAIL BUSINESS ALSO HAS AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION A STRAW OR STIRRER THAT IS
25 MADE OF PAPER OR IS DESIGNED TO BE, AND MARKETED AS, REUSABLE.

26 (3) THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO ENTITIES THAT ARE OPERATED BY OR ON
27 BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

28 (4) DISPOSABLE STRAWS MADE OF A PLANT-BASED POLYMER, INCLUDING PLA, OR A
29 PETROLEUM-BASED POLYMER ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SECTION.

30 (B) *EXCEPTIONS.*

31 (1) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO:

32 (i) PRE-PACKAGED BEVERAGES THAT ARE RECEIVED BY A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY
33 OR RETAIL BUSINESS WITH A STRAW OR STIRRER ALREADY ATTACHED; AND

34 (ii) AN OTHERWISE PROHIBITED ITEM PROVIDED:

1 1. TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUESTS THE ITEM; OR
2 2. TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OR OTHER LAW
3 THAT REQUIRES ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES-; AND

4 (III) A STRAW OR STIRRER THAT IS:

5 1. MADE OF PAPER, BAMBOO, OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT CAN BE LABELED
6 AS HOME COMPOSTABLE UNDER SECTION 9-2102 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE OF THE
7 MARYLAND CODE; OR

8 2. DESIGNED TO BE, AND MARKETED AS, REUSABLE.

9 (2) A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL KEEP A LIMITED STOCK OF STRAWS AVAILABLE TO
10 ACCOMMODATE AN INDIVIDUAL'S NEEDS UNDER THIS SECTION.

11
12 **SEC. 14.1202. PLASTIC FOOD WARE; DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CONDIMENT PACKETS.**

13 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

14 (1) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL NOT SELL, DISTRIBUTE,
15 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE PLASTIC FOOD WARE OR DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CONDIMENT PACKETS EXCEPT IN
16 A SELF-SERVE AREA OR ON REQUEST OF UNLESS REQUESTED BY THE RECIPIENT.

17 (2) THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLY TO ENTITIES THAT ARE OPERATED BY OR ON
18 BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

19 (B) *EXCEPTIONS.*

20 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY MAY
21 PROVIDE AN OTHERWISE PROHIBITED ITEM TO A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, CONTINUING CARE AND
22 ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION FACILITY, AND OTHER HEALTHCARE FACILITY.

23 (2) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO:

24 (I) FOOD-RELATED BAGS OR WRAPPERS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PLASTIC FILM,
25 CHIP BAGS, CRACKER AND COOKIE WRAPPERS, BREAD BAGS, MEAL KITS, OR ICE BAGS;

26 (II) BEVERAGE-RELATED BOTTLES OR CARTONS;

27 (III) PACKAGING FOR UNPREPARED FOOD;

28 (IV) PACKAGING FOR WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OF PREPARED FOOD, BAKED GOODS, OR
29 DAIRY PRODUCTS;

30 (V) PRODUCTS ENCASED IN OR ATTACHED TO PLASTIC FOOD WARE THAT ARE PRE-
31 PACKAGED BEFORE BEING RECEIVED BY A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY; ~~AND~~

32 (VI) PLASTIC FOOD WARE THAT IS DESIGNED TO BE AND MARKETED AS REUSABLE-; AND

1 (VII) CONTAINERS OF CONDIMENTS THAT ARE FILLED ON THE SITE OF A FOOD
2 SERVICE FACILITY.

3 (3) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO DRIVE-
4 THROUGH FOOD SALES AT A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY. FOR DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD SALES, A FOOD
5 SERVICE FACILITY MAY PROVIDE:

6 (I) PLASTIC FOOD WARE AND CONDIMENT PACKAGES IF REQUESTED BY THE RECIPIENT; OR

7 (II) PLASTIC FOOD WARE IF THE FOOD SERVICE FACILITY PROVIDES REASONABLE AND
8 PERMANENT NOTIFICATION BY USING SIGNAGE THAT IDENTIFIES THE DIFFERENT PLASTIC FOOD
9 WARE ITEMS BEING DISTRIBUTED WITH THE SALE.

10
11 **SEC. 14.1203. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

12 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

13 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DESIGNATE A UNIT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN
14 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN BEFORE AND DURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

- 15 (1) PROVIDING INFORMATION TO AFFECTED BUSINESSES AND TO THE PUBLIC;
16 (2) POSTING INFORMATION ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE; AND
17 (3) ISSUING NEWS RELEASES AND HOLDING NEWS EVENTS.

18 (B) *COLLABORATION.*

19 THE UNIT DESIGNATED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL COLLABORATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE
20 DISABILITY COMMUNITY TO INFORM COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

21
22 **SEC. 14.1204. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES.**

23 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

24 THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY SHALL ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE.

25 (B) *DELAYED ENFORCEMENT.*

26 THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY SHALL NOT IMPOSE A FINE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE
27 BEFORE JULY 1, 2022.

28 (C) *PENALTIES.*

29 (1) IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL OTHER REMEDIES, THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
30 SUSTAINABILITY MAY ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE WITH CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO TITLE 24, "CIVIL
31 PENALTIES," OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE. A FIRST VIOLATION IS A CLASS C OFFENSE, THE SECOND
32 VIOLATION IS A CLASS B OFFENSE, AND A SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION IS CLASS A OFFENSE.

1 (2) THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY MAY INSTITUTE ON BEHALF OF HOWARD
2 COUNTY ANY LEGAL ACTION, INCLUDING AN ACTION FOR APPROPRIATE INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, IN ORDER TO
3 COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

4 (3) EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION EXISTS IS A SEPARATE VIOLATION.

5 (4) CIVIL PENALTIES COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE DISPOSABLE
6 PLASTICS REDUCTION FUND ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 20.1305 OF THIS CODE.

7
8 *Section 2. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall*
9 *become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

10

Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones**

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 1

(This Amendment removes cup lids from the definition of "plastic food ware" and exempts small cups of condiments from the prohibitions that apply to food service facility.)

- 1 On page 2, strike line 5 and renumber the rest of the paragraph accordingly.
2 On page 3,
3 • in line 26, strike "AND";
4 • in line 27, strike the period and substitute "; AND"; and
5 • after line 28, insert "(VII) CONTAINERS OF CONDIMENTS THAT ARE FILLED ON THE SITE OF A
6 FOOD SERVICE FACILITY.".
7
8

ADUPTL

3/1/21
FAILED

SIGNATURE 

Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones**

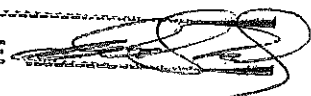
Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 2

(This Amendment allows a food service facility to have certain plastic food ware and condiment packets in a self-serve area.)

1 On page 3, in line 10, after "PACKETS" insert "EXCEPT IN A SELF-SERVE AREA OR ON REQUEST OF"
2 and beginning in line 11 strike "UNLESS REQUESTED BY".
3
4

APPROVED 3/1/21
DATED _____
SIGNATURE 

Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 3

(This Amendment clarifies that the prohibition does not cover certain compostable or reusable straws and stirrers.)

1 On page 2, in line 33, strike "AND".

2 On page 3, in line 3, strike the period and substitute "; AND".

3 Also on page 3, after line 3, insert:


4 "(III) A STRAW OR STIRRER THAT IS:

5 1. MADE OF PAPER, BAMBOO, OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT CAN BE LABELED

6 AS HOME COMPOSTABLE UNDER SECTION 9-2102 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE OF THE

7 MARYLAND CODE; OR

8 2. DESIGNED TO BE, AND MARKETED AS, REUSABLE."

ADOPTED 3/1/21
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE 

Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

BY: Christiana Rigby and
Liz Walsh

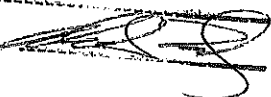
Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 4

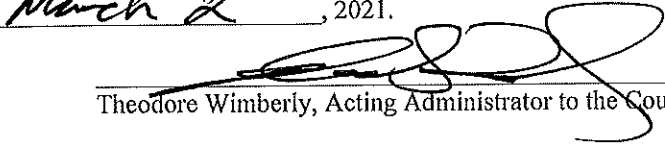
(This Amendment addresses food sales at drive-through locations.)

1 On page 3, after line 27, insert:
2 “(3) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO DRIVE-
3 THROUGH FOOD SALES AT A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY. FOR DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD SALES, A FOOD
4 SERVICE FACILITY MAY PROVIDE:
5 (I) PLASTIC FOOD WARE AND CONDIMENT PACKAGES IF REQUESTED BY THE RECIPIENT; OR
6 (II) PLASTIC FOOD WARE IF THE FOOD SERVICE FACILITY PROVIDES REASONABLE AND
7 PERMANENT NOTIFICATION BY USING SIGNAGE THAT IDENTIFIES THE DIFFERENT PLASTIC FOOD
8 WARE ITEMS BEING DISTRIBUTED WITH THE SALE.”.
9
10

ADOPTED 3/1/21
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE 

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on March 2, 2021.


Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 13-2021

Introduced by: Christiana Rigby, Opel Jones, and Liz Walsh

AN ACT to prohibit the sale or distribution of certain single-use straws and stirrers, certain condiment packets and certain plastic food ware by certain food service facilities and retail business entities under specified circumstances; providing for exceptions to the prohibition; requiring certain establishments to have specified materials; providing for enforcement of the prohibition; specifying the duties of the Office of Community Sustainability; requiring fines to be placed in a certain Fund; and generally relating to waste reduction in the County.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2021.

By order _____
Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2021 and Passed ____, Passed with amendments ____, Failed ____.

By order _____
Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this ____ day of _____, 2021 at ____ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Theodore Wimberly, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive _____, 2021

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; Text in small capitals indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, The County Council adopted the Howard County 2014-2024 Solid Waste Management Plan
2 on May 4, 2015. The solid waste goals set forth in the Plan include promoting the reduction of
3 waste.

4 **WHEREAS**, There is a growing trend among local jurisdictions to prohibit or significantly curtail the use
5 of disposable packaging for food as a step towards protecting the environment.

6 **WHEREAS**, The County Council finds that disposable packaging for food is a component of roadside
7 and marine litter that harms waterways and aquatic life.

8 **WHEREAS**, Various County watershed protection and environmental organizations have advocated for
9 reducing or eliminating the use of disposable packaging for food to help address serious stream
10 degradation in the County.

11 **WHEREAS**, The County Council concludes that it is in the public interest to prohibit the use of some
12 disposable packaging for food under certain circumstances.

13
14 **Section 1.** *Be it enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County*
15 *Code is hereby amended as follows:*

16 *By adding:*

17 *Title 14 - Licenses, Permits and Inspections*

18 *Subtitle 12. Disposable packaging for food.*

19
20
21 **HOWARD COUNTY CODE**

22 **Title 14 - Licenses, Permits and Inspections**

23 **SUBTITLE 12. STRAWS; STIRRERS; DISPOSABLE PACKAGING FOR FOOD.**

24
25 **SEC. 14.1200. DEFINITIONS.**

26 IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

27 (1) "FOOD SERVICE FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 12.107 OF THE HOWARD
28 COUNTY CODE.

29 (2) (I) "PLASTIC FOOD WARE" MEANS ITEMS:

30 1. THAT ARE MADE FROM MATERIAL THAT IS AT LEAST 50% DERIVED FROM:

31 A. A PETROLEUM-BASED POLYMER; OR

1 B. A PLANT-BASED POLYMER, INCLUDING POLYLACTIC ACID (PLA), AND
2 2. THAT ARE SHAPED INTO:

- 3 A. SINGLE-USER CUTLERY;
4 B. A HOT OR COLD BEVERAGE CUP;
5 C. A CUP LID;
6 D. A PLATE;
7 E. A BOWL;
8 F. A BOWL LID;
9 G. A CLAMSHELL FOOD CONTAINER;
10 H. A TRAY; OR
11 I. OTHER HINGED OR LIDDED FOOD CONTAINER.

12 (ii) "PLASTIC FOOD WARE" DOES NOT INCLUDE NON-PLASTIC CUPS, PLATES, OR BOWLS
13 WITH A POLYETHYLENE OR OTHER PLASTIC COATING OR A WAX COATING.

14 (3) "RETAIL BUSINESS" MEANS A BUSINESS OTHER THAN A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY THAT
15 SELLS GOODS DIRECTLY TO ULTIMATE CONSUMERS.

16
17 **SEC. 14.1201. SINGLE-USE STRAWS AND STIRRERS.**

18 (A) *PROHIBITION.*

19 (1) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL NOT SELL, DISTRIBUTE,
20 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE A DRINKING STRAW OR BEVERAGE STIRRER WITH FOOD OR A BEVERAGE, EXCEPT
21 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

22 (2) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A RETAIL BUSINESS SHALL NOT SELL OR OTHERWISE
23 DISTRIBUTE A DRINKING STRAW OR BEVERAGE STIRRER DIRECTLY TO AN ULTIMATE CONSUMER UNLESS
24 THE RETAIL BUSINESS ALSO HAS AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION A STRAW OR STIRRER THAT IS
25 MADE OF PAPER OR IS DESIGNED TO BE, AND MARKETED AS, REUSABLE.

26 (3) THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO ENTITIES THAT ARE OPERATED BY OR ON
27 BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

28 (4) DISPOSABLE STRAWS MADE OF A PLANT-BASED POLYMER, INCLUDING PLA, OR A
29 PETROLEUM-BASED POLYMER ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SECTION.

30 (B) *EXCEPTIONS.*

31 (1) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO:

32 (i) PRE-PACKAGED BEVERAGES THAT ARE RECEIVED BY A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY
33 OR RETAIL BUSINESS WITH A STRAW OR STIRRER ALREADY ATTACHED; AND

34 (ii) AN OTHERWISE PROHIBITED ITEM PROVIDED:

1 1. TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUESTS THE ITEM; OR
2 2. TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OR OTHER LAW
3 THAT REQUIRES ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES.

4 (2) A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL KEEP A LIMITED STOCK OF STRAWS AVAILABLE TO
5 ACCOMMODATE AN INDIVIDUAL'S NEEDS UNDER THIS SECTION.

6
7 **SEC. 14.1202. PLASTIC FOOD WARE; DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CONDIMENT PACKETS.**

8 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

9 (1) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY SHALL NOT SELL, DISTRIBUTE,
10 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE PLASTIC FOOD WARE OR DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CONDIMENT PACKETS UNLESS
11 REQUESTED BY THE RECIPIENT.

12 (2) THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLY TO ENTITIES THAT ARE OPERATED BY OR ON
13 BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

14 (B) *EXCEPTIONS.*

15 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY MAY
16 PROVIDE AN OTHERWISE PROHIBITED ITEM TO A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, CONTINUING CARE AND
17 ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION FACILITY, AND OTHER HEALTHCARE FACILITY.

18 (2) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO:

19 (I) FOOD-RELATED BAGS OR WRAPPERS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PLASTIC FILM,
20 CHIP BAGS, CRACKER AND COOKIE WRAPPERS, BREAD BAGS, MEAL KITS, OR ICE BAGS;

21 (II) BEVERAGE-RELATED BOTTLES OR CARTONS;

22 (III) PACKAGING FOR UNPREPARED FOOD;

23 (IV) PACKAGING FOR WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OF PREPARED FOOD, BAKED GOODS, OR
24 DAIRY PRODUCTS;

25 (V) PRODUCTS ENCASED IN OR ATTACHED TO PLASTIC FOOD WARE THAT ARE PRE-
26 PACKAGED BEFORE BEING RECEIVED BY A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY; AND

27 (VI) PLASTIC FOOD WARE THAT IS DESIGNED TO BE AND MARKETED AS REUSABLE.

28
29 **SEC. 14.1203. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

30 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

31 THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DESIGNATE A UNIT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN
32 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN BEFORE AND DURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

33 (1) PROVIDING INFORMATION TO AFFECTED BUSINESSES AND TO THE PUBLIC;

34 (2) POSTING INFORMATION ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE; AND

(3) ISSUING NEWS RELEASES AND HOLDING NEWS EVENTS.

(B) *COLLABORATION.*

THE UNIT DESIGNATED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL COLLABORATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY TO INFORM COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

SEC. 14.1204. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES.

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY SHALL ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) *DELAYED ENFORCEMENT.*

THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY SHALL NOT IMPOSE A FINE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE BEFORE JULY 1, 2022.

(C) *PENALTIES.*

(1) IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL OTHER REMEDIES, THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY MAY ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE WITH CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO TITLE 24, "CIVIL PENALTIES," OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE. A FIRST VIOLATION IS A CLASS C OFFENSE, THE SECOND VIOLATION IS A CLASS B OFFENSE, AND A SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION IS CLASS A OFFENSE.

(2) THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY MAY INSTITUTE ON BEHALF OF HOWARD COUNTY ANY LEGAL ACTION, INCLUDING AN ACTION FOR APPROPRIATE INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, IN ORDER TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION EXISTS IS A SEPARATE VIOLATION.

(4) CIVIL PENALTIES COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE DISPOSABLE PLASTICS REDUCTION FUND ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 20.1305 OF THIS CODE.

Section 2. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones**

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 1

(This Amendment removes cup lids from the definition of "plastic food ware" and exempts small cups of condiments from the prohibitions that apply to food service facility.)

1 On page 2, strike line 5 and renumber the rest of the paragraph accordingly.

2 On page 3,

3 • in line 26, strike "AND";

4 • in line 27, strike the period and substitute "; AND"; and

5 • after line 28, insert "(VII) CONTAINERS OF CONDIMENTS THAT ARE FILLED ON THE SITE OF A
6 FOOD SERVICE FACILITY.".

7

8

Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones**

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 2

(This Amendment allows a food service facility to have certain plastic food ware and condiment packets in a self-serve area.)

1 On page 3, in line 10, after "PACKETS" insert "EXCEPT IN A SELF-SERVE AREA OR ON REQUEST OF"
2 and beginning in line 11 strike "UNLESS REQUESTED BY".
3
4

Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby
Opel Jones**

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 3

(This Amendment clarifies that the prohibition does not cover certain compostable or reusable straws and stirrers.)

1 On page 2, in line 33, strike “AND”.

2 On page 3, in line 3, strike the period and substitute “; AND”.

3 Also on page 3, after line 3, insert:

4 “(III) A STRAW OR STIRRER THAT IS:

5 1. MADE OF PAPER, BAMBOO, OR OTHER MATERIAL THAT CAN BE LABELED
6 AS HOME COMPOSTABLE UNDER SECTION 9-2102 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE OF THE
7 MARYLAND CODE; OR

8 2. DESIGNED TO BE, AND MARKETED AS, REUSABLE.”

Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 13-2021

**BY: Christiana Rigby and
Liz Walsh**

Legislative Day No. 5

Date: March 1, 2021

Amendment No. 4

(This Amendment addresses food sales at drive-through locations.)

1 On page 3, after line 27, insert:

2 “(3) THE PROHIBITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO DRIVE-
3 THROUGH FOOD SALES AT A FOOD SERVICE FACILITY. FOR DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD SALES, A FOOD
4 SERVICE FACILITY MAY PROVIDE:

5 (I) PLASTIC FOOD WARE AND CONDIMENT PACKAGES IF REQUESTED BY THE RECIPIENT; OR

6 (II) PLASTIC FOOD WARE IF THE FOOD SERVICE FACILITY PROVIDES REASONABLE AND
7 PERMANENT NOTIFICATION BY USING SIGNAGE THAT IDENTIFIES THE DIFFERENT PLASTIC FOOD
8 WARE ITEMS BEING DISTRIBUTED WITH THE SALE.”.

9

10

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 13-2021

Introduced: February 3, 2021

Auditor: Michael Martin

Fiscal Impact:

According to the Administration, the fiscal impact of this legislation is approximately \$7,500.

According to the Office of Community Sustainability (OCS), it has not had the time to thoroughly review an educational program. However, it intends to replicate the plastic bag fee outreach program which consisted of three mailings to effected parties, costing approximately \$2,500 each mailing cycle.

Because the OCS does not intend to assess the proposed fines associated with violations, we do not anticipate any revenues to offset the cost of the program.

The OCS's plan is to establish an online complaint portal for consumer complaints which will generate letters to those who have violated the law informing them of the violation. This portal would be for informational purposes only and will not be utilized to assess fines.

Purpose:

This legislation would prohibit the sale or distribution of single-use straws, stirrers, and plastic food ware items by food service facilities or retail businesses effective January 1, 2022.

Exceptions to this legislation include distribution to certain individuals who may require these items such as those in healthcare facilities, individuals with disabilities, or upon request by an individual.

The prohibition does not apply to prepackaged beverages, food-related bags or wrappers, packaging for unprepared food or wholesale distribution, and plastic food ware marketed as reusable.

Other Comments:

Although the OCS stated they do not intend on issuing fines, the legislation authorizes the County to issue civil penalties associated with violations of the proposed plastic food ware ban beginning July 1, 2022. Any fees collected related to this legislation shall be deposited in the Disposable Plastics Reduction Fund. *Relevant fines are outlined below for reference:*

Offense	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
First – Class C	\$ 100	\$ 250
Second – Class B	250	500
Third – Class A	500	1,000

The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits confirmed they will have no role in this legislation.

CB 13-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeffrey Dannis <jeff.dannis@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:15 AM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: CB-13-2021

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

Howard County Council
Especially Councilpersons Rigby, Jones and Walsh

Re: CB-13-2021 Food Serviceware and straw legislation
Having read through this bill, I find it completely ineffective and only causes stress to restaurants or food-service establishments.

Straws

Page 2 Lines 22-25 identifies that restaurants and other establishments cannot distribute plastic straws unless they have available for distribution paper or reusable straws. This does not make them offer the alternative straws nor does this encourage or support them to minimize plastic or paper straw distribution to only those who request straws. It only makes these establishments have them in their stock. The rest of section 14.1201 is just not relevant.

This piece of legislation does nothing to reduce pollution, nothing to improve customer's health, nor reduce ancillary stuff in carry out bags. **Please correspond with me to explain what this piece of legislation will actually do, re-write it or just repeal it.**

Serviceware

In Section 14.1200 definitions, plastic food ware is identified as anything that is more than 50% plastic or bioplastic. Thus, anything that is less than 50% plastic or bioplastic is not plastic food ware, but also anything that has a PE or wax coating is not considered plastic food ware (page 2 lines 12-13).

Section 14.1202 (A) bans providers from distributing plastic food ware. This bans them from distributing trays/plates bowls made from 100% plastic #5 which are acceptable in Howard County recycling. This also bans providers from distributing 100% bioplastic items which are compostable. The ban gives an exception for PE coated service ware often seen in milk jugs and waxy paper plates. Those items are not limited in any way, but are not compostable (25%+ plastic) and are only recyclable in certain markets. **This ban drives food providers to purchase and create demand for complex packaging items that are only destined for the trash can. Please correspond with me to explain how this legislation will fix a problem that exists; if you can't, re-write it or just repeal it.**

Enforcement

Section 14.1204 charges the Office of Environmental Sustainability with enforcement of this legislation. The writers of this legislation must not be aware about what OES does or how it operates. OES has no field inspectors, no method of enforcement, no plan to enforce this legislation, nor does it have any other responsibilities anything like this in its mission. **Please correspond with me to explain how the Council plans to expand OES's role and provide funding for such actions, or perhaps re-write it or just repeal the whole piece of legislation.**

Howard County generates about 200,000 tons of food scrap per year and has no plan to address this. While a small portion of it is recycled, composted or diverted, most of it is landfilled producing potent greenhouse gases. Yes we have a composting facility that will eventually take about 7,500 tons/year of post-consumer food scrap, but we need a comprehensive plan and the zoning to allow facilities to address this huge environmental problem. Yes a company is planning on building a food scrap digester in the County, but depending upon one for profit company is not the diversified approach that is needed.

Please work on legislation that will tackle real problems rather than legislation that will require restaurants to carry on their shelves a box of paper straws.

Jeffrey Dannis

10083 Century Drive
Ellicott City
410-948-7853



MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

March 17, 2021

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

RE: CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and the Howard County Bird Club (a chapter of MOS) thank you for passing CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act.

We are grateful that Howard County is taking a first step towards addressing the issue of plastic pollution. As we indicated in our testimony for CB13, plastics present a grave threat to our bird life, in particular to sea birds. And they are being found everywhere. We hope that Howard County's example will set a precedent, which will encourage other jurisdictions to follow suit, and will start a snowball rolling!

MOS is a Maryland-based volunteer organization of some 1200 members. Our Howard Chapter has 200 members. We are devoted to the study and preservation of birds and their habitat. We welcome all comers, regardless of who they are, where they are from, or what they believe in, to share in our goals

Sincerely,

Mary Maxey
President
Howard County Bird Club
35 Bryans Mill Way
Catonsville, MD 21228
443-847-1106
Maximom11998@gmail.com

Kurt R. Schwarz
District 1 Resident
Conservation Chair

Maryland Ornithological Society
www.mdbirds.org
9045 Dunloggin Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-461-1643
krschwa1@verizon.net

CB13-2021

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:23 AM
To: barebonesgrill@gmail.com
Subject: District 5 - Plastic Band

First Name: Derek
Last Name: Reese
Email: barebonesgrill@gmail.com
Street Address: 9150 Baltimore National Pk
City: Ellicott City
Subject: Plastic Band

Message: Seriously the Restaurants have struggled enough!!!! Let it be known that we have been repeatedly frowned upon and now you just want to add more to the punch!! Move on to the things that mean the most to others and stop copying what others have done and honestly cost them more money, but you don't know this!

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Info@hudsoncoastal.com
Subject: District 4 - Plastic clam shells

First Name: Brad
Last Name: Hudson
Email: Info@hudsoncoastal.com
Street Address: 11811 west marketplace
City: Fulton
Subject: Plastic clam shells

Message: Good day, As the owner of Hudson Coastal, I'd appreciate you considering an exception to the plastic clam shell food containers. Since they are recyclable they should be exempt. When putting together to go dishes during volume, it is near impossible to execute if you can't see the food in the container. Many of the items being considering are understandable but the recyclable food container that is microwaveable and locks on the edges to prevent leakage. Thanks for your consideration Brad Hudson

Sayers, Margery

From: Tim & Deb Lattimer <lattimertp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please approve CB13-2021 - "The Plastic Reduction Act."

[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 urge the County Council to enact CB13-2021 - "The Plastic Reduction Act." Thanks to Council Members Jones, Rigby, and Walsh for your leadership on this measure.

Enacting CB13-2021 will not only help our county in reducing its contribution to the long-term and highly destructive environmental impacts of plastic wastes (especially single-use plastics), it will also help in reducing our contribution to climate change. While international cooperation and national leadership on climate are important, we simply cannot solve the climate crisis without stronger action on multiple fronts at local and state levels. This includes curbing our consumption and disposal of plastics.

Let's make Howard County a leader on climate and sustainability. Your approval of CB13-2021 would be a good step in that direction.

Best regards, Tim Lattimer
Each Leaf Ct.
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Fagan <clarissa7500@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I Support CB13-2021 (Plastic Reduction Act)

[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,

We must fight plastic waste at every turn. Please vote **yes** to support Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Straws may be small and lightweight but they're a BIG problem — Americans use more than 500 million plastic straws each day. That is enough to fill 125 school buses every single day. It is enough to circle the Earth 2.5 times.

Straws are often littered, or caught by the wind, and washed into storm drains that empty into streams, bays, and other waterways, and otherwise end up in our ocean and beaches. Plastic straws are frequently cited as one of the top ten contributors to marine debris pollution.

Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability. Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups.

We are in a plastic pollution crisis. This bill is an important and necessary step to continue to remove single-use plastic from our environment.

This legislation is an important tool to continue to remind the citizens of Howard County the importance of single-use plastic reduction.

Sincerely,

Claire Fagan
District 5

Sayers, Margery

From: Lindsey Sands <lindsands@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail

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

Lindsey Sands
10906 Cedar Oaks Lane
District 4

Dear County Council Members,

Thank you again for your interest in CB13, The Plastic Reduction Act.

First, I wanted to share video testimony created by a middle school student at Mount View Middle School:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyceZNIaPFMh4I50DEfMoQw>

I believe she helps to put everything into perspective.

Second, one of the topics brought up at the work session is the use of take-out containers.

With the startling facts that 40% of all plastic waste is from plastic packaging and less than 10% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled and 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, it is clear we cannot continue with the current linear economy.

Thankfully, reuse and refill is now moving forward and becoming the norm. Howard County could be on east coast leaders following the innovative ideas on the west coast. For example, many restaurants in California has partnered with Dispatch Goods(<https://dispatchgoods.com/home>). California even has a mobile kiosk to refill items such as laundry detergent! But is not just the west coast. In 2019, New York chain Dig piloted a reusable bowl. Last fall, McDonalds announced a refillable cup pilot with TerraCycle's Loop in the UK. Burger King followed suit, also offering a reusable Whopper package.

Even closer to home, reuse is not a new concept in Maryland. The Reuse Company Ozzi (<https://www.planetozzi.com/>) is utilized at the University of Maryland.[1]

The business opportunities in Howard County is only as limited as our imagination.

Finally, I urge you to support CB13, The Plastic Reduction Act, for the sake of our health, our economy, our waste management and our finite planet. Let's move forward with reuse/refill options for a sustainable tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Sands
[1]<https://dbknews.com/0999/12/31/arc-sqshmucww5fm5gkaujlbqs5vga/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Jolee :3 <issa.jolee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB-13 needs your help!

[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,

I am writing to request your support the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks, and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed of, finding their way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic breaks up, the microplastics absorb toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways, and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for an increase in public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Jolee Smith/6046 Red Clover Ln/D- 13

Sayers, Margery

From: Jamie Gabel <jamie.elizabeth03@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB13-2021

[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,

As I fight to reduce single-use plastic in my life, I am urging the Howard County Council to do their part and vote in favor of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are small, but they remain in our environment for hundreds of years. Yes, straws are made from thin material, but that allows them to break up into smaller pieces known as micro plastics more quickly. Yes, they are lightweight, but that makes it harder to assure they are properly disposed. Please support CB13-2021.

This is so much bigger than straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We already know that plastic, and the chemicals that attach themselves to plastics in the water, can cause cancer, genetic disruptions and other ill effects.

We need to be good ancestors. Reducing single-use plastic items is a powerful step.

Jamie Gabel, 9091 Northfield Rd, Ellicott City, District 1

Sayers, Margery

From: Mandy Elder <mandy.elder@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13 Plastic Reduction Bill

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

Hello,

I'm reaching out to you in support of the plastic reduction bill CB13.

As I strive to reduce waste wherever I can, one area that is a constant struggle is the automatic inclusions of straws, plastic utensils, napkins, and sauce packets in takeout food bags. And in a time when needs are so great for so many, these items continue to have very little value to people. I collect these items as they find their way into our home in hopes that they can serve some purpose, but it is very hard to find anyone that can actually use them.

I picture in my head, then, the manufacturing and distribution processes of these items at scale...all ending at a big dumpster. So many resources wasted, to end up directly in the "trash". We can do better, and I think this bill is needed to take a step in the right direction.

Thank you,
Mandy Elder
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Pete Alexander <gilsen@juno.com>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Pat Hersey
Subject: Please support CB13

[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'm writing to ask for your support of CB13, The Plastic Reduction Act.

We can't continue to kick this can down the road. Plastic pollution is a huge problem, not only globally, but also right here in Howard County. Roadside plastic trash is everywhere you look when driving in Howard County, and once its out there it takes hundreds of years to degrade. Worse, most of that discarded plastic ends up polluting our Chesapeake Bay and eventually the Atlantic Ocean creating a deadly problem for ocean wildlife. Eight million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year. The Pacific Gyre is an enormous plastic trash dump.

Further, plastics are products made from fossil fuels. We don't need to be damaging environmentally sensitive regions with off-shore oil wells or oil pipelines to make plastics that create other waste problems.

I want to live in a sustainable community, and there are sustainable options to plastic bags, plastic food containers, and plastic cutlery. We need to step up and do the right thing now. There's no reasonable excuse not to pass CB13.

Sincerely,

Peter Alexander, PhD
15615 Camden Meadows Court
Woodbine, MD 21797
District 5

HCPSS Legislative Report

2021 Maryland General Assembly

As approved at the Board of Education Meeting February 25, 2021

Board Positions on County Council Bills

Bill Number	Introduced By
CB13-2021	Council Members Christiana Rigby, Opel Jones, and Liz Walsh

Bill text: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=12666> (click title of bill to download text)

Council Summary: AN ACT to prohibit the sale or distribution of certain single-use straws and stirrers, certain condiment packets and certain plastic food ware by certain food service facilities and retail business entities under specified circumstances; providing for exceptions to the prohibition; requiring certain establishments to have specified materials; providing for enforcement of the prohibition; specifying the duties of the Office of Community Sustainability; requiring fines to be placed in a certain Fund; and generally relating to waste reduction in the County.

HCPSS Analysis: As written, CB13-2021 would apply to HCPSS schools as our kitchens are facilities licensed by the County Health Officer within the definition of “food service facility.” Under prohibitions of the bill, such facilities may not distribute straws, plastic condiment packets or plastic food wares (made of specific materials defined in the bill), except when requested by a customer, fall into an exemption for prepackaged items, or required to accommodate disabilities under the ADA or other laws.

HCPSS Food and Nutrition Services staff initially indicated CB13-2021 has the potential to increase costs by approximately \$120,000 per year for HCPSS food services operations. While staff supports the intent of this bill to be environmentally conscious, biodegradable items to replace plastic straws, plastic cups and other plastic foodwares would generally cost as much as 200 percent more than items currently used.

Following discussion with Councilwoman Christiana Rigby during the Committee’s meeting to explain the specific exceptions that would be allowed under the bill, including the allowed distribution of straws and plasticware when requested – rather than the use of an alternative/biodegradable material – Food and Nutrition Services staff believes costs would not be as originally estimated. Savings may also be realized from potential decreased use/purchase of such items over time.

BOARD POSITION: SUPPORT

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Kubina <jennifer.kubina@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 7:56 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

As I fight to reduce single-use plastic in my life, I am urging the Howard County Council to do their part and vote in favor of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are small, but they remain in our environment for hundreds of years. Yes, straws are made from thin material, but that allows them to break up into smaller pieces known as micro plastics more quickly. Yes, they are lightweight, but that makes it harder to assure they are properly disposed. Please support CB13-2021.

This is so much bigger than straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We already know that plastic, and the chemicals that attach themselves to plastics in the water, can cause cancer, genetic disruptions and other ill effects.

We need to be good ancestors. Reducing single-use plastic items is a powerful step.

I frequently take clean-up walks around my local path system and I am always dismayed at the amount of plastic waste that I pull from the ponds, paths, and wooded areas. This plastic litter is heartbreaking, it hurts wildlife, and it makes our community look trashy. I would love to be able to take a walk without seeing so much single use plastic polluting our neighborhood.

Jennifer Kubina,
6249 Hidden Clearing, Columbia, MD 21045
District 2

Sayers, Margery

From: E Kato <euk369@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:21 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: CB13-2021 - Support

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

Dear Del. Rigby,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. I try to do the right thing and reduce single-use plastic in my life, and the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021 will help. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth Kato
7335 Carved Stone
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Hans and Marie Raven <hansandmarie.raven@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 7:56 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: CB 13-2021

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

Dear Councilmember Rigby,

As a resident of your district I am writing to you to ask you to vote for CB13-2021 and decrease additional plastic waste here in Howard County. Although the majority of restaurants have begun to ask through their online ordering system if plastic utensils are needed, they do not always pay attention to what the customer has indicated. I have a filled a plastic bag from the Cheesecake Factory with complete utensil and napkin sets I have received through ordering we have done just since the start of a pandemic. I was able to fill another almost empty box of BJs brand individual plastic forks knives and spoons as well from take-out orders as well. This is after consistently declining them on our online order or indicating that we didn't need them upon pick-up. I don't even want to estimate the number of plastic condiments packages of soy sauce, BBQ sauce, Chick-fil-A dipping sauces, and ketchup that we have also thrown away.

Given the absolute lack of recycling for plastic straws and the terrible contribution they make to pollution especially in our waterways, it is appropriate that their distribution also be severely limited within the county. If major business like the Disney corporation and Sea World can restrict the availability of plastic straws for their millions of guests each year, then so can we. It is important for us to respect our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay by supporting this legislation.

With thanks,
Marie

Marie Raven
Laurel, MD
301-317-8010 (home)

Sayers, Margery

From: Alisa Niefeld-Batiz <aniefelbatiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:46 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021

[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,

I am writing to request your support the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed, finding there way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic break up, the microplastics absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

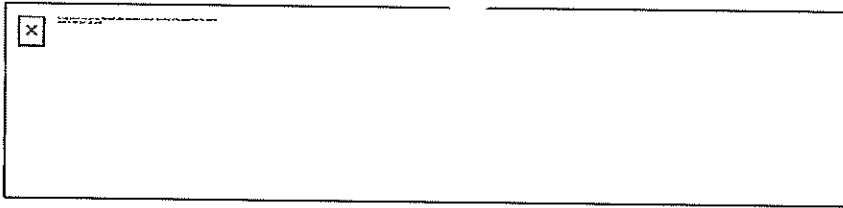
The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for increase public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Regards,

**Alisa Niefeld-Batiz
Century 21 Redwood
410-215-0047**

A REFERRAL IS THE BEST COMPLIMENT I CAN RECEIVE!



"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." — *Maya Angelou*

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Hamming <khamming@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: CB 13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act

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

Hello,
I urge you to vote yes on **CB 13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act**.
Thanks for all you do.

Karen Hamming

--
Always maintain a kind of Summer even in the middle of Winter -Thoreau

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard D <rdeutschmann2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Plastic

[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,

I am writing to request your support of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. **Thanks to all that are sponsoring!** Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed, finding their way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic break up, the microplastics absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for increased public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Richard & Vanessa Deutschmann
9485 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045
M – (410)707-4368

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Levi-Goerlich <sulego@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 6:42 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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-

As I fight to reduce single-use plastic in my life, I am urging the Howard County Council to do their part and vote in favor of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are small, but they remain in our environment for hundreds of years. Yes, straws are made from thin material, but that allows them to break up into smaller pieces known as micro plastics more quickly. Yes, they are lightweight, but that makes it harder to assure they are properly disposed. Please support CB13-2021.

This is so much bigger than straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We already know that plastic, and the chemicals that attach themselves to plastics in the water, can cause cancer, genetic disruptions and other ill effects.

We need to be good ancestors. Reducing single-use plastic items is a powerful step.

Susan Levi-Goerlich
6440 River Run, Columbia, Md 21044
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:04 PM
To: LISA MARKOVITZ; CouncilMail
Subject: RE: cb13-2021
Attachments: Case: CS0012711 – opened and unassigned

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for reaching out, enforcement wouldn't begin until July 2022, does that address your concern?

Thanks!
Christiana

Christiana Rigby - *she/her/hers*
Councilwoman, District 3
Serving North Laurel, Savage, Columbia, Jessup and Guilford

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
crigby@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.4101



[Sign up for my newsletter!](#)

From: LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:29 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: cb13-2021

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

The People's Voice supports this bill with amendment to the enforcement time to be June instead of January. The pandemic has particularly hit the restaurant industry hard. We should give them more time to deplete supplies and order new materials. Also, we don't want a large dump of unusable plastic at once, as supplies are going out in such smaller amounts right now.

We signed a letter of support from Howard County Sierra but wanted to point out our desire to amend.

Thank you,
Lisa Markovitz
President, The People's Voice

Sayers, Margery

From: LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: cb13-2021

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

The People's Voice supports this bill with amendment to the enforcement time to be June instead of January. The pandemic has particularly hit the restaurant industry hard. We should give them more time to deplete supplies and order new materials. Also, we don't want a large dump of unusable plastic at once, as supplies are going out in such smaller amounts right now.

We signed a letter of support from Howard County Sierra but wanted to point out our desire to amend.

Thank you,
Lisa Markovitz
President, The People's Voice

Sayers, Margery

From: RoseMarie Meservey <rmmeserv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:53 AM
To: CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Ron Meservey
Subject: Please support CB13-2021

[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,

Dear County Council Members,

For the vast majority of the population, straws are unnecessary and wasteful. A ban on plastic straws will help change behavior as we move away from plastic waste. Please support the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Plastic straws should be banned because the harm they cause vastly outweighs the benefit to society. There are a number of reusable and Earth-friendly options that are now replacing plastic, including bamboo, stainless steel, and glass. Single-use straws sourced from paper, pasta, hay and even seaweed are also viable options and can fully biodegrade in the natural environment.

Because straws are avoidable, they are a relatively easy step in a strategy to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics.

Even if one attempts to dispose of straw properly, they are easily carried away by the wind, ending up littering our beaches and in our oceans and waterways. Once in our oceans, straws harm and kill marine life and as the plastic breaks up, the microplastic absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability.

We live on a finite planet. We must reflect that reality in our actions.

Thanks so much Councilman Jones and to others who have sponsored this bill. Both my husband and I applaud your efforts and hope that all members of the Council will see the moral imperative of doing all possible to protect our environment for future generations.

RoseMarie (and Ron) Meservey
District 2

Sayers, Margery

From: Betty Rice <bettyrice@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021

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

I strongly support the passage of **HoCo Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021** and for that matter any other bill that reduces plastic usage throughout the county/MD.

Betty Rice
4046 Highpoint Rd EC 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rosemary Noble <roronoble@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: CB13-2021

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

Hello Ms. Walsh,

Thank you for introducing CB13 to further limit specific single use plastics in Howard County. While each of us has a responsibility to reduce plastic waste, this bill will have a large impact on the practices of restaurants, grocery stores, fast food establishments, and hopefully, awake a need for each of us to do our part. I struggle to find a way to reduce plastic in our home and am making small strides but I find there is much "automatic" use of plastics that is totally out of my control. In the days of ordering in, I have to learn to also request no plastic utensils. In the future I hope plastic food containers could be returned cleaned to the restaurant for reuse or restaurants will all change to paper containers that can be recycled. I also hope the green bin recycling program will expand to new zip codes, especially ours 21042.

Again, thank you for all of your effort to promote sustainable living in our changing environment.

Rosemary Noble
3719 Chateau Ridge Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Defne Demirekler <ddemirekler@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Plastic Reduction Act Testimony (SUPPORT)

[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,

I am writing to request your support of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021.

As a high school student, the climate crisis is the largest issue facing us today. It is crucial to pass this piece of legislation to protect our environment. The plastic crisis continues to spiral out-of-control with no visible end in sight. This straw ban does not solve our problem, but it helps us get there. It sets an important precedent in our county so we can continue to be a driving force in the climate justice movement. My future is at stake. Our health is at stake. We must pass CB13.

Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed, finding their way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic break up, the microplastics absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for increased public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Defne Demirekler
12304 Wake Forest Rd
Clarksville, MD 21029
District 4, Deb Jung

Sayers, Margery

From: emmaelaine2@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: In Support of CB13-2021

[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 the Howard County Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Straws may be small and lightweight, but they are a big problem. Plastic straws are an unnecessary utensil for the vast majority of people and are usually thrown away after just one use. The average American uses 1.6 straws a day. The population in Howard County in 2019 was 325,690. That means in Howard County alone produces 521,104 straws a day which immediately becomes trash! This wasteful product can easily be avoided by supporting The Plastic Reduction Act.

A big thank you to my representative, Liz Walsh, for co-sponsoring the Howard County Plastic Reduction Act.

Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Literally trillions of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability.

We're drowning in plastic. Literally. By 2050, scientists predict there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. And since plastic does not biodegrade, it will remain in our landfills and oceans for at least 200 years.

Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. A ban on plastic straws would prevent harm to wildlife, help keep our coasts clean, and protect our oceans and beaches for the future.

Let Howard County be the leader others will follow.

Signed,
Emma Bush
9808 Woodbridge Ct. Ellicott City, MD 21042
District 1

Sayers, Margery

From: Jamie Gabel <jamie.elizabeth03@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support for CB13-2021

[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,

We must fight plastic waste at every turn. Please vote yes to support Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Thank you Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, and Christiana Rigby for sponsoring this legislation. Straws may be small and lightweight but they're a BIG problem — *Americans use more than 500 million plastic straws each day*. That is enough to fill 125 school buses every single day. It is enough to circle the Earth 2.5 times.

Straws are often littered, or caught by the wind, and washed into storm drains that empty into streams, bays, and other waterways, and otherwise end up in our ocean and beaches. Plastic straws are frequently cited as one of the top ten contributors to marine debris pollution.

Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability. Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups.

We are in a plastic pollution crisis. This bill is an important and necessary step to continue to remove single-use plastic from our environment.

This legislation is an important tool to continue to remind the citizens of Howard County the importance of single-use plastic reduction.

Jamie Gabel
9091 Northfield Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042
District 1

Sayers, Margery

From: Justice Sefas <jds464@cornell.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December, 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans. Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1. By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish. Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets helps the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

Therefore, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13-2021 can make a difference.

Thank you.

Justice Sefas
11460 Little Patuxent Parkway #503,
Columbia, MD, 21044
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Oliver Song <oliversong1216@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support for CB13-2021

[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,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December, 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans. Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1. By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish. Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets helps the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

So, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13-2021 can make a difference.

Oliver Song, 5023 Rushlight Path, District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Al Hersey <alhersey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support for CB13-2021 Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

I am a constituent of Council member Jones. I would like to thank Council members Rigby, Jones and Walsh for introducing CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act, which will help reduce unnecessary and dangerous single-use plastic.

We are drowning in plastic. 90 percent of the trash in our oceans are made of plastic.[1]
But that is not deterring the fossil fuel industry. Plastic production is expected to grow on average 3.5 to 4 percent per year through at least 2035. [2]

Continuing to place bans and regulations will allow us to amplify our voice against the plastic industry and help to create the cultural shift needed away from single-use items towards a circular economy.

Aside from creating a healthier, cleaner Howard County, this bill will also help other counties, and the state, pass similar legislation.

Thank you,
Al Hersey
9462 Farewell Rd
Columbia, MD

[1] <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data>

[2] <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24012020/plastics-marine-oceans-climate-change-oil-gas-carbon-emissions/>

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Petitegal <petitegal178@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Susan Hughen
Subject: support Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021

[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 vote yes to support Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021.

We cannot do this with individual action. My use of carry out has increased with the pandemic. I ask for no straw and it is still put in the bag. I ask for no ketchup packs and they are still put in the bag. My BuyNothing group is full of people looking for a use for all of the wrapped plastic utensils from school lunches.

We need BIG and BOLD action to reduce/eliminate all of this single use plastic. This legislation is an important tool to continue to remind the citizens of Howard County the importance of single-use plastic reduction.

Susan Hughen
9218 Log Chain Rd.
Columbia 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Gabby Tyer <gabbyntyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: The Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021

[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,

Hope you are having a wonderful morning/afternoon/evening,

I am an 11th grade student at Howard High School, and a constituent of Opel Jones. I am writing to ask that you please support the Howard County Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Many do not realize it, but single use plastic has a large part in the life of the average citizen, especially due to the pandemic. For example, takeout has become more and more common, and as a result, single use straws, utensils, and other single use plastic items have been used and thrown out more frequently. Also, single use plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are not recyclable, meaning they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. Did you know that plastic cutlery is one of the top ten items found in beach cleanups?

As said by former Senator Tom Udall, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations."

As a student, and a young person who hopes to have children in the future, I feel that it is one of the top priorities to work toward taking better care of the environment. Not only would the reduction of single-use plastics such as plastic straws greatly improve the lives of wildlife and the quality of beaches and other public areas, but it could also help prevent health problems caused by microplastics in our food.

Fortunately, there are plenty of biodegradable options that could replace plastic straws. For example, reusable bamboo, stainless steel, and glass straws are becoming more common, as well as single use straws made from paper, pasta, hay, and also seaweed are options that can fully biodegrade in the natural environment.

This year, all of Canada and the EU will be banning single use plastic. Also, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii, and California, as well as Washington D.C, PG County, and Montgomery County have implemented a plastic straw ban. These areas have all seen reductions in plastic use.

Not only will the implementation of CB13-2021 help remind the citizens of Howard County about the importance of plastic reduction, but it will make a difference and promote a healthier environment for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration! :)

Gabby Tyer
8225 Elko Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Eileen Dubrov Will Foreman <beanandwill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: here's your testimony for CB13

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

Dear Councilman Jones,

I am writing to request your support of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed, finding their way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic break up, the microplastics absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for increased public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Eileen Dubrov
5341 Flight Feather 21045
District 2

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:41 PM
To: zervascarol@gmail.com
Subject: District 5 - C.B.13-2021

First Name: Carol
Last Name: Zervas
Email: zervascarol@gmail.com
Street Address: 11800 Willow Branch
City: Ellicott City
Subject: C.B.13-2021

Message: Where can I read about/hear/watch the background discussion on this bill. I'd like to learn what materials are suggested that vendors use in place of plastic and whether reasonable time is allotted for them to switch. Also, is there any discussion of how vendors are likely to be impacted during pandemic restrictions? Please reply if you have time and info. on questions. Thank you. Carol

Sayers, Margery

From: Pat Hersey <trishhersey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13 will help create a reusable future in Howard County

[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,

Thank you again for your interest in CB13, The Plastic Reduction Act.

First, I wanted to share video testimony created by a middle school student at Mount View Middle School:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyceZNIaPFMh4I50DEfMoQw>

I believe she helps to put everything into perspective.

Second, one of the topics brought up at the work session is the use of take-out containers.

With the startling facts that 40% of all plastic waste is from plastic packaging and less than 10% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled and 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, it is clear we cannot continue with the current linear economy.

Thankfully, reuse and refill is now moving forward and becoming the norm. Howard County could be on east coast leaders following the innovative ideas on the west coast. For example, many restaurants in California has partnered with Dispatch Goods(<https://dispatchgoods.com/home>). California even has a mobile kiosk to refill items such as laundry detergent!

But is not just the west coast. In 2019, New York chain Dig piloted a reusable bowl. Last fall, McDonalds announced a refillable cup pilot with TerraCycle's Loop in the UK. Burger King followed suit, also offering a reusable Whopper package.

Even closer to home, reuse is not a new concept in Maryland. The Reuse Company Ozzi (<https://www.planetozzi.com/>) is utilized at the University of Maryland.[1]

The business opportunities in Howard County is only as limited as our imagination.

Finally, I urge you to support CB13, The Plastic Reduction Act, for the sake of our health, our economy, our waste management and our finite planet. Let's move forward with reuse/refill options for a sustainable tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Pat Hersey

[1]<https://dbknews.com/0999/12/31/arc-sqsh mucww5fm5gkaujlbqs5vga/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Janice Winter <janicewinter29@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB13-2021 Plastic Reduction Act

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

Council Members--

I am writing to request your support of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. During the pandemic I was appalled by the number of carry out restaurants that supplied plastic ware with their meals. Even after specifically stating that I did not need plastic utensils, I would often find them in my bag. Plastic straws are also an unnecessary item that is polluting our waterways. Let's eliminate the source of plastic straws by stopping the distribution at restaurants.

Please support the Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021 and let Howard County be a leader in the effort to reduce plastic. Now is the time for action.

Thank you for your consideration,
Janice Winter
3134 Kings Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jim Bock <jimdiego@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021

[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 CB13-2021 to keep plastic straws and other unnecessary plastic items out of our streets, woods, waterways, and bloodstreams.

When I was young, Lady Bird Johnson spearheaded a campaign to beautify America by stopping littering. We were innocent then: Litter was unsightly and reflected poorly on our community spirit.

Today we know better. Plastic litter and waste are not only messy and ugly, but a threat to public health, too.

CB13-2021 is your chance to beautify Howard County, save a little landfill space, and keep some nonbiodegradable plastics out of our environment and our bodies. The legislation gives affected businesses time to adapt.

Thanks to the sponsors of CB13-2021. I hope all of you will support it and make Howard County a better place.

Sincerely,

James Bock
6020 Middlewater Court
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Andrews <louiseandrews5708@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021.

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

My name is Louise Andrews and I am a Howard County resident. Please support The Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. This would be a good step in the right direction!!!

Thank you for time,

Louise Andrews, MFA, MAAmSat,
Certified Teacher of the Alexander Technique
Certified Functional Awareness Movement Educator
Voice & Acting Teacher
louiseandrews5708@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Hannah Zinnert <hzinnert@patapsco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021 Testimony
Attachments: CB13 Testimony-2.pdf

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

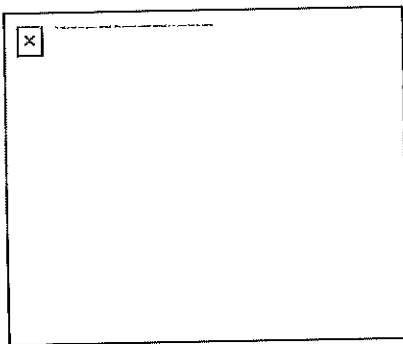
Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Patapsco Heritage Greenway, I am submitting written testimony in support of CB13-2021, The Plastics Reduction Act. Please see the attached PDF for our full testimony.

Thank you,

Hannah

Hannah Zinnert
Program Manager
Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
hzinnert@patapsco.org
410-696-1328
www.patapsco.org





HERITAGE GREENWAY P. O. Box 96, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 | info@patapsco.org | www.patapsco.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Wachs,
President
John Heinrichs,
Operations Manager
Victoria Goodman,
Vice President
Sylvia Ramsey,
Vice President
Mark Southerland,
Vice President
Kathy Younkin,
Vice President
Pete Lins,
Treasurer
Kenneth Boone,
Secretary

MEMBERS

Brooke Abercrombie
Chris Gallant
Ray Haslip
Gabriele Hourticolon
Cathy Hudson
Pam Johnson
Amanda Lauer
Marsha McLaughlin
Nancy Pickard
Justine Schaeffer
Lisa Wingate

HONORARY

James Robey
Ed Kasemeyer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aaron Shapiro

February 11, 2021

Dear Council Member,

As the Environmental Program Manager at Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) and with the support and backing of PHG's Board of Directors, I am writing to urge you to support CB13-2021, the Plastics Reduction Act.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway's mission is to preserve, protect, interpret, and restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco Valley.

We do this, in part, through our environmental stewardship activities, which include many stream cleanups. Every year, we mobilize around 1,000 volunteers to take part in approximately 25 cleanups throughout the Patapsco watershed. At every single one of these cleanups, we have found and removed many plastic straws and other single-use plastic cutlery that are caught along stream banks, surrounding vegetation, and around storm drains. These items may be small, but they do not biodegrade and can even take up to 200 years to decompose. This decomposition process first creates "microplastics", which enter our waterways and have the potential to cause even further harm to aquatic life.

Plastic straws and other single-use plastic cutlery cause the following issues:

- During production, they use precious fossil fuel, that not only is limited in supply worldwide, but also contributes to climate change when used.
- After their limited use, single-use plastic cannot be recycled and due to their lightweight nature have an increased risk of not being disposed of properly. When littered on to our streets, roadways, and sidewalks, they can eventually clog sewer drains (which can exacerbate flooding issues), flow downstream, and end up in the Patapsco River and subsequently the Chesapeake Bay.
- Along the way, wildlife and fish can be injured by plastics or mistake plastics for food, killing them as it accumulates in their system.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway will continue to conduct stream cleanups and removing plastic straws and other single-use plastic cutlery whenever found. However, we hope for a future in which we will not find as many needing to be removed. This goal is possible with your assistance, and we hope you will support CB13-2021 as the first step in reaching it.

Thank you,

Hannah Zinnert

Hannah Zinnert
Program Manager

PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to preserve, protect, interpret, & restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth Auerbach <rauerb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021

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

Dear Council Members,

A couple questions were asked at the hearing for CB13 this evening that I would like to offer a response. Ms. Jung inquired why not ban all single-use plastics? In the report "20 Years of Government Responses to the Global Plastic Pollution Problem" the finding is that bans are most effective when there is a suitable alternative. It states "Following examples around the world, researchers have recommended that at least in the short-term, regulatory bans could be effective for other single-use plastic pollutants [besides plastic bags] where alternatives can be sourced...." As the restaurant owners stated in the hearing, some items do not yet have a suitable alternative. Further, as Ms. Hersey said, PLA plastic is not a suitable alternative.

A question from Mr. Yungmann was about whether the ultimate goal is to completely ban single-use plastic. There do exist other alternatives to everyone carrying their own cutlery and to-go containers with them. Currently, the businesses, Green To-Go (durhamgreentogo.com) in Durham, North Carolina and Go Box (goboxpdx.com) in Portland, Oregon, operate reusable take-out container services where restaurants sign-up with the company to offer reusable containers to their customers who give a deposit or are subscribers. The customers later return the containers to a collection site, and get their deposit back, if applicable. The container service cleans the items and redistributes them to the restaurants. CB13 is legislation that may encourage such a business to open in Howard County.

Again, I urge your support for CB13.

Sincerely,
Ruth Auerbach
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: William Jimenez <williamjime@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: William Jimenez written testimony in support of CB13-2021

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

My name is William Jimenez. I am a resident of Howard County and I am writing in support of CB13-2021. I believe the bill as it stands would ameliorate Howard County's problems with excessive unrecyclable plastic.

When I order takeout, I often receive condiment packets and plastic utensils and straws -- without asking for them. These extras no doubt cost the business that provides them, but in my experience they either accumulate at home for an eventual use that almost never comes, or once used they go into the garbage because they cannot be recycled. These items then have to be disposed of, whether by taking up space in the landfill (reducing its useful lifetime), or other means; in any event transportation and other disposal costs for these unneeded items are ultimately borne by Howard County residents. Moreover, many of these items can be made from reusable or biodegradable materials.

One way to reduce such costs and extend landfill lifetime is to ban the provision by default of these unneeded items and encourage dining establishments to offer utensils and straws made from reusable or biodegradable materials; that in general is what CB13-2021 does.

Thank you for your time.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carla Tevelow <perlpubl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support for CB13

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I am in support of CB13.

As a member of Less Plastics in Howard County, which conducted a survey of restaurants in our area, we found support for this bill.

From the business perspective this law will result in cost savings thus being a plus for them. Consumers are beginning to take an active interest in reducing their plastic waste and look toward companies to take an active role.

It's been reported from the Product Stewardship Institute restaurants can save money and lessen landfill use. In a pilot program in Greenport, NY, the first thing the restaurants did was calculate their carbon footprint. Then they implemented several strategies to lower their plastic use: switched to compostable take-out containers; switched to paper carryout bags and unwrapped BPI-certified compostable carry-out cutlery; phased in paper straws; they asked if customers wanted to-go foodware containers; and they discontinued the sale of plastic bottles. The result was an annual cost savings of approximately \$3300 which included a waste fee. It should be noted, this saved 632,080 pounds of plastic waste. Also, operational efficiency was boosted and saved staff time as well (for example, there were fewer clogged drains due to plastic straws).

Closer to home Mother's Cantina, a restaurant in Ocean City, found it cost 2 cents more to use paper instead of plastic bags. They passed this along to their customers. Noone complained. During the study period, the number of instances of the bag fee used (the amount of times the to go button was hit on point of sale) was 9,790. Also, the revenue generated by the bag charge was \$195.80. The transaction fee was not recognized nor important to the customer. 100% of customer comments resulting from the surcharge were positive and led to conversations about environmental consciousness. "Many of the conversations surrounding our environmental efforts resulted in repeat business, a larger spend while in the business, and some cross promotion with other small business owners."

All in all the passing of this bill will have a positive impact on both businesses and our county's environment. Please support CB13.
Thank you.

Carla Tevelow
Columbia, MD
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: HoCo Climate Action <hococlimateaction@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:06 PM
To: CouncilMail; HoCo Climate Action
Subject: CB13-2021 Letter of Support
Attachments: CB13- Howard County Plastic Reduction Act- HoCoCA-FAV.pdf

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

Greetings,

Please accept this letter of support for CB13-2021 from HoCo Climate Action.

Regards,

Liz Feighner
Steering and Advocacy Committee
HoCo Climate Action
www.hococlimateaction.org



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony in SUPPORT of CB13-2021 - Howard County Plastic Reduction Act
Hearing Date: February 16, 2021
Submitting: Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

I'm Liz Feighner, representing HoCo Climate Action -- a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of the Howard County Climate Collaboration -- and we support CB13-2021 – Howard County Plastic Reduction Act.

According to an International Energy Agency report released in Oct 2018, *greenhouse gas emissions from plastics* are predicted to sharply rise at a critical time in which we must be reducing emissions. Fossil fuel and petrochemical industries are ramping up the production of plastic which is made from oil and fracked gas byproducts, in order to hedge against the decreased demand due to switching to clean renewable energy sources. Members of Less Plastic Please, HoCo Climate Action, and the Sierra Club of Howard County, are so alarmed about the plastic crisis and climate crisis, we hosted a film screening and discussion panel on the Story of Plastic in June, 2020 - a truly devastating documentary on the plastic crisis we are facing right now. In fact, this is so concerning that 24 organizations have signed on to a letter of support for this bill which has been submitted for this hearing.

The plastic pollution crisis is making headline news and we cannot ignore it any longer. If plastic production isn't curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2050. It is estimated that we are unwittingly ingesting a credit card's weight in plastic every week. This legislation is critical in reducing the amount of single-use plastic being used and tossed away. Except there is no "away" - it is our environment, landfills or incineration generating toxic emissions and increasing health concerns.

I would like to focus on those single-serve mustard or mayo packets for your sandwich; ketchup packets for your fries; soy sauce, duck sauce, or hot mustard packets for Chinese food; honey packets for tea; cream cheese packets for bagels and so on and so on. Literally trillions of condiment packets are produced each year. There is no way to recycle these packets, and no incentive for anyone to collect them (as they have no monetary value once used), every packet produced will end up in a drawer or tossed "away". And we know there is no "away".

We must address this issue with urgency. Making all these items available by customer request only will reduce the amount of food and plastic waste that is degrading our environment and affecting our health. Restaurants will save money by not having to purchase so many of these so called "freebies". Except they are not free - disposal and environmental costs are shouldered by local municipalities and taxpayers. It is a win for the environment, for restaurants, and taxpayers by making these single-use items available only by customer request.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

HoCo Climate Action
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee, Laurel MD
www.HoCoClimateAction.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Less Plastic Please <lessplasticpleasehoco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:03 PM
To: CouncilMail; Less Plastic Please
Subject: CB13-2021 - Letters of Support
Attachments: CB13-2021-Organization Letter of Support.pdf; CB13-2021-Restaurant Letter of Support-Little Market Cafe.pdf; CB13-2021-Restaurant Letter of Support-Mother's Cantina.pdf

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

Please accept these letters of support for CB13-2021.

Thank you,

Pat Hersey and Liz Feighner
Less Plastic Please

February 16, 2021

Howard County Council
3420 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Councilmembers:

The 24 undersigned organizations support CB 13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act which will ban plastic straws and make utensils and condiments on request only. Plastic waste is a major problem – both locally and globally. It is a major source of water pollution and it contributes to climate change through its reliance on fossil fuels for production and distribution.

In addition, the items addressed in the bill – straws, utensils, and condiment packages – cannot be recycled, costing taxpayers to manage their disposal. The ultimate disposal of these plastics further pollutes the environment, often in areas already disproportionately impacted by pollution and waste.

This commonsense bill will provide an immediate reduction in plastic waste, saving businesses' and the county money while supporting a healthier environment for citizens.

We urge your support of this legislation for our environment and our future.

Sincerely,

Audubon Society of Central Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Columbia United Christian Church
Echotopia LLC
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
FPCHC Green Team
HoCo Climate Action
Howard County Conservancy
Howard County Sierra Club
Indivisible Howard County
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Maryland Ornithological Society
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
MEeGreen.org
MLC Climate Justice Wing
MOM's Organic Market
NAACP Howard County Branch #7020
Our Revolution Howard County
Safe Skies Maryland
Smart Growth Maryland
Sunrise Movement Howard County
The People's Voice
Transition Howard Co
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

February 16, 2021

Howard County Council
3420 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Councilmembers:

I am in support of CB 13-2021, Howard County Plastic Reduction Act. This bill addresses the major problem of plastic waste. It will ban plastic straws and stirrers which will provide an immediate reduction in plastic waste with the "upon request" language for utensils and condiments. It is estimated that this will reduce waste by at least 40%, and at the same time save restaurants money. The bill also provides needed flexibility for restaurants when providing straws for disabled customers.

This bill will save restaurants money while supporting a cleaner environment. I urge your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jeni Porter, Owner
Little Market Cafe
Ellicott City, MD
District 1

February 16, 2021

Howard County Council
3420 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Councilmembers:

I am in support of CB 13-2021, Howard County Plastic Reduction Act. This bill addresses the major problem of plastic waste. It will ban plastic straws and stirrers which will provide an immediate reduction in plastic waste with the "upon request" language for utensils and condiments. It is estimated that this will reduce waste by at least 40%, and at the same time save restaurants money. The bill also provides needed flexibility for restaurants when providing straws for disabled customers.

This bill will save restaurants money while supporting a cleaner environment. I urge your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ryan James, Chef/Owner
Mother's Cantina
Ocean City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth Auerbach <rauerb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Copy of Oral Testimony on CB13 - 2021
Attachments: CB13-testimony-16-Feb-2021.pdf

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

The attached file is a copy of my oral testimony on CB13-2021.

Ruth Auerbach

TESTIMONY TO THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

CB13-2021

POSITION: Support

BY: Ruth Auerbach, District 3 Resident, Columbia, MD 21046

Date: February 16, 2021

Copy of oral testimony:

My name is Ruth Auerbach. I live in District 3. I am speaking in support of CB13. Thank you for listening this evening.

I will present an overview of similar single-use plastic legislation which has been enacted in other districts, with a focus on Maryland and DC.

Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Charles County, Takoma Park, and DC have all banned single-use plastic straws, although some jurisdictions have allowances for a compostability standard.

Prince George's law, similar to CB13, also requires that retail businesses that sell straws and stirrers must have home compostable ones available too.

Washington DC requires compostable and recyclable food service ware in restaurants. Additionally, various metal-coated paper products and paper bags with plastic windows are also banned.

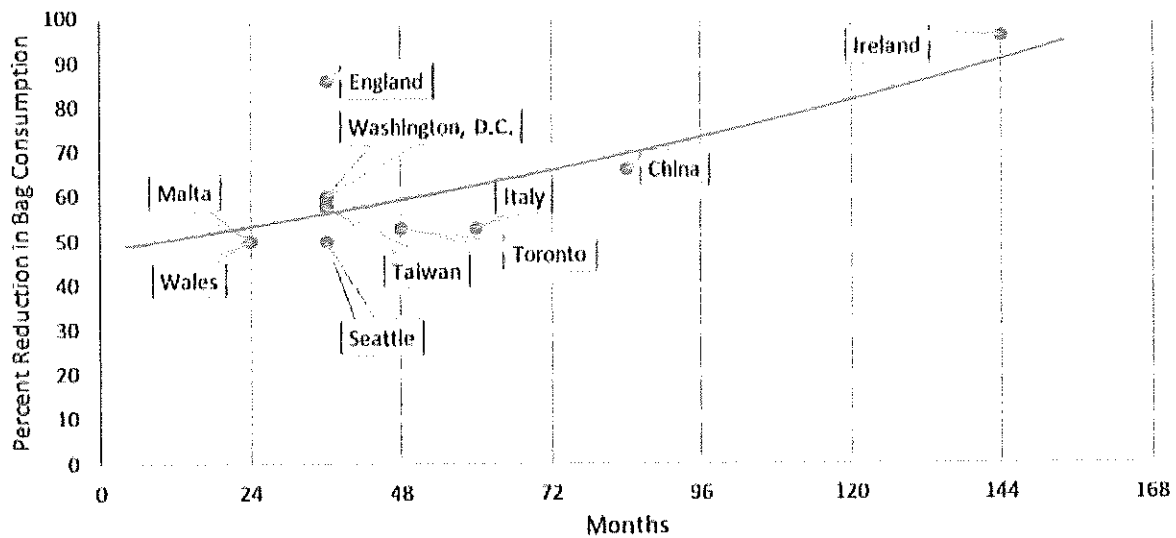
As you can see, adopting CB13 would proudly put Howard County at the forefront of the region in turning the tide on single-use plastics. Although the DC ban includes items not in CB13.

Looking nationally, California and Vermont have statewide legislation limiting plastic straws. Fifty-eight cities and counties hailing from 15 different states, ranging from Florida and Pennsylvania to Wisconsin and Washington State, have local legislation on single-use plastics that include straws.

Internationally, Canada has one of the strongest comprehensive plans to completely ban single-use plastics.

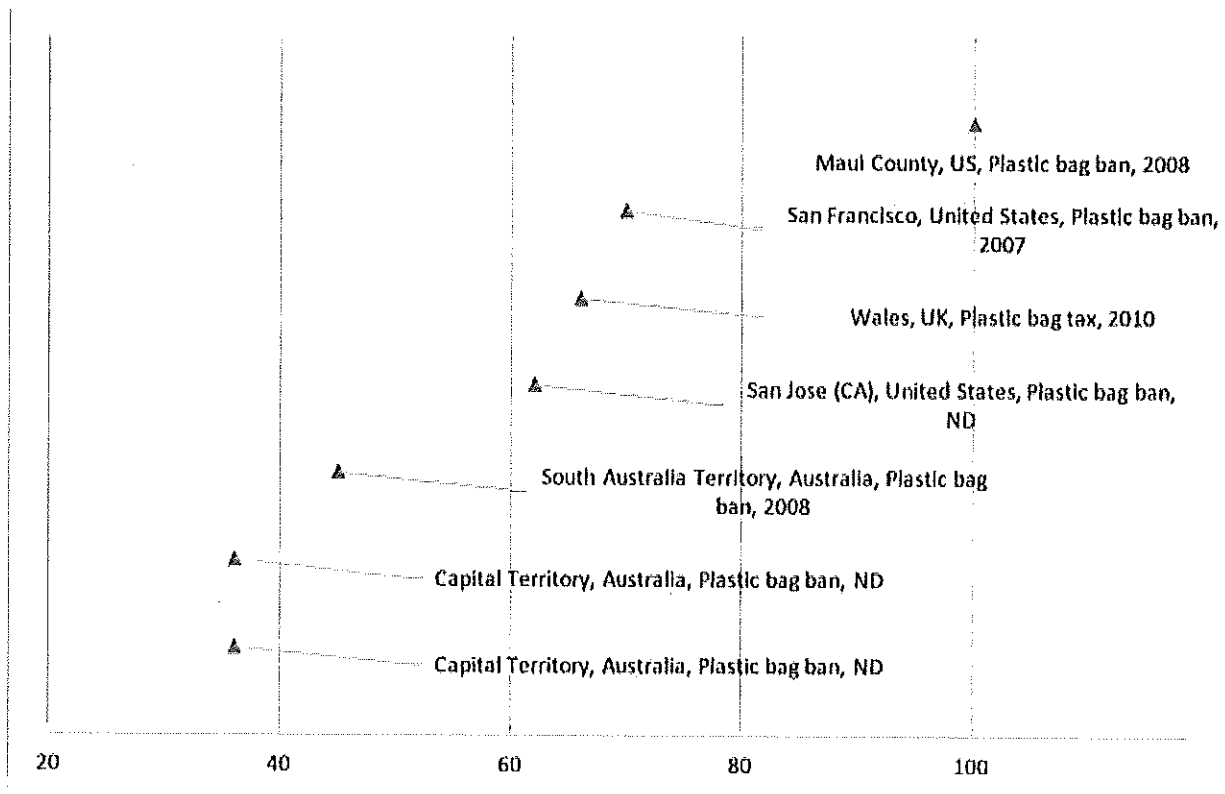
For a survey on this subject, I recommend the 2020 report from Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions titled "20 Years of Government Responses to the Global Plastic Pollution Problem". As of 2018, at least 25 countries have banned some form of plastic packaging or single-use plastic product, other than a plastic bag. These 25 countries contain more than 2 billion people.

Figure 29. Studies with Policy Effects on Consumption Reported at Least 24 Months after the Policy Instrument Was Introduced



Sources: China: You 2017 in Dauvergne 2018; England: Defra 2018; Ireland: Xanthos and Walker 2017; Italy: Le-gambiente ONLUS 2017 in Schnurr et al. 2018; Malta: Hermann et al. 2011 in Martiuhö et al. 2017; Seattle: Hoffman 2016 in Wagner 2017; Taiwan: TEPA 2012 in Liu et al. 2013; Toronto: Rivers et al. 2017; Wales: Welsh Government 2016 in Schnurr et al. 2018; Washington, DC: DoEE 2013 in Rivers et al. 2017.

Figure 31. Measures of Effects of Policy Instruments on Plastic Bag Littering in the Scientific Literature (% Reduction in Bags Littered before and after Policy)



Note: No Y axis given as data occurs only along the horizontal axis and is differentiated vertically solely for illustrative purposes.

Sayers, Margery

From: RAYMOND LIN <rkacl@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Plastic Reduction Act CB 13-2021

[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,

As I fight to reduce single-use plastic in my life, I am urging the Howard County Council to do their part and vote in favor of Plastic Reduction Act, CB 13-2021. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are small, but they remain in our environment for hundreds of years. Yes straws are mad from thin material, but that allows them to break up into smaller pieces known as micro plastics more quickly. Yes, they are lightweight, but that makes it harder to assure they are properly disposed. Please support CB 13-2021.

This is so much bigger than straw cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We already know that plastic and the chemicals that attach themselves to plastics in the water, can cause cancer, genetic disruption and other ill effects.

We need to be good ancestors. Reducing single-use plastic items is a powerful step.

Katherine Leonard
10109 Windstream Dr #5
Columbia, Md. 21044

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Andree Neri <asn6672@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Reduce plastics

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

Sending this again to your correct address, Attn Christiana Rigby, my elected official.

A.S. Neri

From: asn6672@aol.com
To: council@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: 2/14/2021 2:52:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Reduce plastics

I support CB13-2021 to reduce plastics, and I hope you do too. I refused a straw, when I did go to restaurants, and encouraged friends to do so. Dunkin Donuts needs to fix their lids on iced coffee so a straw will not be used, Starbucks has a lid, unfortunately it's plastic, but does not use a straw. I bought a metal cup to use at Dunkin, am not sure I can use it during this time though but no straw is needed, it's great.

So please eliminate plastic utensils, straws, etc. The birds and animals and oceans will be better off.

Thanks,
Andree S. Neri, Owen Brown, Columbia, MD.

February 16, 2021



RE: CB-13-2021 Plastic Reduction Act

POSITION: Support

Councilmembers,

The Howard County Sierra Club group supports CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act. The goal of this legislation is to reduce the use and disposal of nuisance plastic such as plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets.

Worldwide, over 300 million tons of plastic are produced every year, half of which is single-use items such as shopping bags, cups and straws¹. The production of plastics has increased 20-fold in the past half-century², and it is expected to grow 40% by 2030³. Single-use and short-lived plastics have the highest disposal rates, the lowest recyclability, and pose a major challenge to our health, ecosystems and economy.

Plastic exacerbates climate change!

The Center for International Environmental Law has estimated that greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten the ability of the world to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C. If plastic production stays on its current trajectory, by 2030, greenhouse gas emissions from plastic could reach 1.34 billion tons per year, equivalent to the emissions produced by 300 new 500MW coal-fired power plants⁴. By 2050, the

¹ [Marine plastics | IUCN](#)

² [WEF The New Plastics Economy.pdf \(weforum.org\)](#)

³ [The plastic polluters won 2019 – and we're running out of time to stop them | Plastics | The Guardian](#)

⁴ [More Plastic Is On the Way: What It Means for Climate Change \(columbia.edu\)](#)

greenhouse gas emissions from plastics could reach over 56 gigatons which is 10-13 percent of the entire remaining carbon budget.⁵

Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. According to the Pew Study, "Breaking the Plastic Wave"⁶, a delay of implementing plastic bans and regulations of just five years would result in an additional ~80 million metric tons of plastic going into the ocean by 2040. Ban and regulations not only help increase awareness, but it also changes behavior and consumers are more willing to adapt to other environmental legislation going forward.

The average American uses 1.6 straws a day. The population in Howard County in 2019 was approximately 325,000 people. That means Howard County alone may trash half a million straws a day!

Not only are plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets not recyclable, but in the marine environment they eventually break into smaller pieces that absorb toxins and are consumed by marine life and eventually humans. Also, for the first time, the Ocean Conservancy has found plastic utensils have been in the top 10 of items found at marine clean ups.⁷

We live on a finite planet. We need to shift toward sustainable production and consumption to keep within the environmental boundaries of our planet. This bill is a necessary step in the right direction. The Sierra Club is glad that the Howard County Council is moving ahead with this important legislation. We ask you to vote yes to pass CB13.

Kim Drake
Secretary, Howard County Sierra Club

Carolyn Parsa
Chair, Howard County Sierra Club

⁵ [Plastic & Climate: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet | Center for International Environmental Law \(ciel.org\)](#)

⁶ [Breaking the Plastic Wave Top Findings | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#)

⁷ [Plastic Is Forking Up Beaches: Disposable Cutlery Now On Top 10 List \(forbes.com\)](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris-Ellyn Johanson <chrisellynj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skainy, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Reduce plastic waste in Howard County

[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,

As I fight to reduce single-use plastic in my life, I am urging the Howard County Council to do their part and vote in favor of Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. We must work to reduce all unnecessary single-use plastic. Straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are small, but they remain in our environment for hundreds of years. Yes, straws are made from thin material, but that allows them to break up into smaller pieces known as micro plastics more quickly. Yes, they are lightweight, but that makes it harder to assure they are properly disposed. Please support CB13-2021.

This is so much bigger than straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We already know that plastic, and the chemicals that attach themselves to plastics in the water, can cause cancer, genetic disruptions and other ill effects.

We need to be good ancestors. Reducing single-use plastic items is a powerful step.

Chris-Ellyn Johanson, Ph.D.
5167 Harpers Farm Rd
Columbia MD 21044
chrisellynj@gmail.com
313 410-5899

Sayers, Margery

From: Pete Alexander <gilsen@juno.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Cc: lessplasticpleasehoco@gmail.com
Subject: Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021

[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 the Howard County Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021.

We're drowning in plastic. By 2050, scientists predict there will be more plastic in the world's oceans than there are fish. And since plastic does not biodegrade, it will remain in our landfills and oceans for at least 200 years.

Straws may be small and lightweight, but they are a big problem. Plastic straws are an unnecessary utensil for the vast majority of people and are usually thrown away after just one use. Howard County residents use thousands of straws every day which immediately become trash! This wasteful product can easily be eliminated by supporting The Plastic Reduction Act.

Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Just this week I received two plastic cutlery packs with a take-out order that I ate in my own kitchen using real cutlery, leaving me with plastic trash that I didn't want or need. Worse, trillions of condiment packets are handed out each year with minimal value and absolutely no recyclability. Last night, I got take-out Chinese food and was given a dozen packs of mustard, soy sauce, and duck sauce that I didn't use. This is senseless. Single-use plastic utensils like straws and cutlery should only be offered by request of customers, if then.

There are environmentally-friendly alternatives to these products. Biodegradable and compostable straws and cutlery are offered by some environmentally-conscious restaurants. Paper straws and bamboo cutlery are examples.

The Howard County Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021 bans and places regulations on consumer items that damage the environment and have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. A ban on plastic straws would prevent harm to wildlife, help keep our coasts clean, and protect our oceans and beaches for the future.

Let Howard County be the leadership others will follow.

Peter Alexander, PhD
Woodbine, MD
District 5

Sayers, Margery

From: Marissa Douglas <marissad3552@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 7:50 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

Council Member Opal Jones, your sponsorship of this bill means so much to the residents of Howard County in District 2, so thank you so much for your support!

I am writing to request your support of the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. Plastic straws are one of the most widely used, and therefore disposed of, plastic products. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets are not recyclable so they end up in landfills and incinerators as well as littering our streets, parks, and roadsides, clogging our gutters, rivers, lakes, streams, and polluting our environment where they may persist for more than 200 years. The lightweight nature of straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets increases the risk of not being properly disposed of, finding their way into our waters. Once in our oceans, straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets harm and kill marine life and as the plastic breaks up, the microplastics absorb toxic chemicals, enter the food chain, and harm or kill marine life.

Senator Tom Udall said it best, "The plastic pollution crisis is past the tipping point: our communities, our waterways, and even our bodies are at risk. We are already bearing the cleanup costs of mountains of plastic waste, and it will only get worse for future generations".

The CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act will also allow for increased public awareness for single-use plastics and their nasty effects on the environment.

This will make Howard County one of the Counties with the strongest plastic reduction legislation.

Marissa Douglas; Carriage House Lane; District 2

Sayers, Margery

From: Phyllis Skillman <phyllisskillman@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 4:04 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; dyungman@howardcountymd.gov; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Please pass CB13-2021

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

February 14, 2021

Fe

Dear County Council Members,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act to ban all single-use plastics such as plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and condiment packets.

Plastics are creating an environmental crisis everywhere. Canada, the EU, and many jurisdictions closer to home such as Takoma Park and Montgomery County are banning these items, which end up in the water. Last year during international Coastal Cleanup Day, over 400,000 straws and stirrers were found on beaches.

Please take this critical step to help our environment and pass CB13-2021 without delay.

Phyllis Skillman

10085 Windstream Drive

Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Mackenzie Strozyk <mackenziestrozyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 2:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: CB13-2021

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

Dear County Council,

I am in absolute full support of the new legislative bill, CB12-2021. This bill supports the need to slow down the rate of climate change not and the impacts of microplastics on the ecosystem, especially in our very own waterways. Microplastics can also have devastating effects on human health that this bill can aim to address. CB12-2021 is a step for a greener Howard County, which will help us to influence other counties and regions to reduce the use of microplastics in their communities.

Thank you,

--

Mackenzie Strozyk
Howard County Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Ted Van Allen <tva6@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 9:14 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021

[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,

I am writing to you asking for you to support the *Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021*

Here are just a few concerns I have with plastic straws:

- * Straws are one of the top ten plastic items found on beaches across the globe. Last year during International Coastal Cleanup Day, over 400,000 straws and stirrers were found on beaches.
- * Plastic cutlery is now also one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recycle-ability.
- * Plastic doesn't biodegrade, it photo-degrades into smaller and smaller pieces, which get ingested by marine and land animals, and into our food chain.
- * Once in our waterways, plastic absorbs other toxins, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- * Plastic straws cannot be recycled effectively.

But we must act now. An implementation delay of five years would result in an additional ~80 million metric tons of plastic going into the ocean by 2040.

This is bigger than plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets This is a critical step of creating a healthy future.

Respectfully,

Ted Van Allen
10768 McGregor Drive
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 8:23 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act - Please support

[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 vote yes to support Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021. There is too much plastic waste everywhere – it pollutes, it emits greenhouse gasses for its entire lifespan, and, it is now so pervasive that it's inside our very own tissues as well as the tissues of birds and other animals. Much of it is totally unnecessary.

Straws are a BIG problem — *Americans use more than 500 million plastic straws each day.* That is enough to fill 125 school buses every single day. It is enough to circle the Earth 2.5 times.

Straws are often littered, or caught by the wind, and washed into storm drains that empty into streams, bays, and other waterways, and otherwise end up in our ocean and beaches. Plastic straws are frequently cited as one of the top ten contributors to marine debris pollution.

Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability. Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups.

We are in a plastic pollution crisis. This bill is an important and necessary step to continue to remove single-use plastic from our environment.

This legislation is an important tool to continue to remind the citizens of Howard County the importance of single-use plastic reduction.

Sincerely,
Robin Hessey
10768 McGregor Drive
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Gail Holm <gailholm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 2:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 13 - The Plastic Reduction Act

[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:

I'm writing in support of CB13-2021, The Plastics Reduction Act.

I've frequently participated in neighborhood clean-ups around the King's Contrivance Village Center, and have spent hours picking up a seemingly endless supply of discarded single use plastics including straws, plastic utensils, food boxes, condiment packages and other items that have been thrown away by Village Center customers or have escaped from trash containers. I usually begin to bag the trash in the grassy area behind the buildings, and then work my way into the wooded area between the Village Center and Hammond High School where I continue to find a mother lode of single use plastic. Eventually I get down to the unnamed stream that runs through the woods, and guess what I find in the stream. Yes. More plastic.

This stream continues and gets larger as it flows through Dickinson. Less than a half mile from the Village Center is a site where in late winter/early spring I join Howard County Stream Waders to monitor the quality of the stream. We collect samples of the benthic macro invertebrates (small animals without backbones that live on the bottom of the stream.) Based on the kinds of invertebrates we find and how sensitive they are to pollution, the health of the stream can be determined. This King's Contrivance Stream has been rated Poor and Very Poor in recent years. It's not unlikely that plastic pollution has played a part in this. Microplastics, the small pieces of our single use and other plastics are vectors for toxic substances have been found in many life forms, from micro-invertebrates all the way up the food chain to us. The larger larger pieces of plastic that we find in the stream and on the banks are also deadly to wildlife. We've all seen photos of animals killed by ingesting plastic or getting trapped in plastic trash.

Single use plastics that enter our ecosystem from King's Contrivance Village Center and the Dickinson neighborhood flow down our little stream into the Middle Patuxent River to the Patuxent River to the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean. Streams and rivers like ours bring plastics from distant inland areas to our oceans and are a major contributor to the huge amount of plastic damaging the world's marine environment.

CB-13-2021 isn't just about keeping Howard County's roads and neighborhoods tidy. It's a step--a small step--toward preventing the further degradation of the planet we depend upon for life.

I urge you to support CB 13-2021.
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Gail P. Holm
10081 Fair Beauty
Columbia 21046

--
Gail P. Holm

Sayers, Margery

From: Gayle Killen <killchar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skainy, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

First, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for our D1 Council Member Liz Walsh and her fellows for sponsoring CB13.

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December, 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans.

Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1.

By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish. Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets helps the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

So, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13-2021 can make a difference.

Ever Hopeful,

Gayle Killen
8572 Main St Historic Ellicott City (D1)

--

Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.
~Thomas H. Huxley

Sayers, Margery

From: ana maldonado <anamaldonado2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 5:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Plastics. Reduction Act

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

Good afternoon.

Mrs. Fry Hester brought to my attention Councilwoman Christina Rigby's plastics reduction act after some comments I made. Although I applaud the initiative, I believe a policy that requires establishments to use compostable or reusable utensils and straws would have a greater impact on the environment and reduce plastic waste in the county.

To the dismay of family and friends I try to carry my own reusable utensils when out and avoid as much as possible establishments that mostly use disposable cups and utensils. I always request no plastic utensils when getting take out to no avail. Invariably if establishments have them on hand they will be given out. I believe a mandate asking establishments to only hand these out when asked by customers will be ignored. Places get busy and retraining employees to change long standing practices will be very hard.

Thank you for your attention.,

Ana Maldonado

EC 21043



MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

February 12, 2021

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

RE: CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and the Howard County Bird Club (a chapter of MOS) fully support CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act. We ask the County Council to pass this bill.

Plastics present a serious threat to bird life, as well as other wildlife. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, plastic marine debris has been found in 86% of sea turtles, 44% of seabirds, and 43% of marine mammals. Once consumed, this plastic debris can cause internal and external wounds, impair feeding by blockage of the digestive system, decrease mobility and the ability to avoid predation, and prove toxic. It can also reduce body weight, inhibit fat deposition, and reduce reproductive capacity.¹

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned the National Park Service and Clemson University to quantify microplastics on National Park beaches from 2015 to 2017. Thirty-seven beaches in 35 National Parks, Monuments, Seashores, and Recreation Areas were sampled and microplastics and microfibers were found at all 37 beaches. Microfibers made up 97% of the debris found. Microplastics and microfibers were found even on remote Alaskan beaches.² Another recent study published in the prestigious journal Science reported that a

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency, Impacts of Mismanaged Trash, July 30, 2020, <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/impacts-mismanaged-trash#plastic>

² NOAA Marine Debris Program, Quantification of Microplastics on National Park Beaches, January 22, 2021, <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/reports/quantification-microplastics-national-park-beaches>

total of eleven billion tons of plastics would accumulate in the environment by 2025. Plastic fragments, and the resulting microplastics are spread far and wide, reaching even remote national parks and wilderness areas.³

Our bird populations are in steep decline. A recent study showed that North America lost 3 billion birds, 29% of its total bird population, since the 1970s.⁴ Plastic pollution adds to that toll on our birdlife. As we have noted above, it is especially acute in the marine environment. But they are also found in land birds. A study in Florida of dead birds of prey found plastic debris in the digestive systems of all birds that were dissected.⁵ Plastics have been found in water birds, all across the Great Lakes.⁶ In short, the problem of plastics and birds is widespread.

Single-use plastics present a substantial threat to Maryland Wildlife and throughout the world. And they are an ugly eyesore wherever they wind up. We therefore ask you to pass CB13-2021, and take a step toward reducing plastics in our environment.

MOS is a Maryland-based volunteer organization of some 1200 members. Our Howard Chapter has 200 members. We are devoted to the study and preservation of birds and their habitat.

Sincerely,

Mary Maxey
President
Howard County Bird Club
35 Bryans Mill Way

³ Brahney, Janice, et al, Plastic rain in protected areas of the United States, *Science*, vol. 368, issue 6496, 12 June 2020, abstract at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6496/1257>

⁴ Rosenberg, et al, Decline of the North American Avifauna, *Science*, vol 366, issue 6461, pp. 120-124, 4 October 2019, <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120>

⁵ Carlin, Julia, et al, Microplastic accumulation in the gastrointestinal tracts in birds of prey in central Florida, USA, *Environmental Pollution*, Vol 264, September 2020, abstract at : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749119352674?via%3Dihub>

⁶ Hough, Cassidy, Microplastics are filling the Great Lakes and birds' bellies, *Great Lakes Echo*, February 3, 2020, <http://greatlakesecho.org/2020/02/03/microplastics-are-filling-the-great-lakes-and-birds-bellies/>

Catonsville, MD 21228
443-847-1106
Maximom11998@gmail.com

Kurt R. Schwarz
District 1 Resident
Conservation Chair
Maryland Ornithological Society
www.mdbirds.org
9045 Dunloggin Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-461-1643
krschwa1@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan White <whitehogan@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 4:43 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: CB-13 Plastics bill

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

Dear Christiana,

As one of your constituents, I am very appreciative of your sponsoring CB13-2021, the proposed legislation to be voted on soon by the County Council. Thank you for your advocacy of environmental causes. I believe it is critically important that our County move to do all we can to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment, and this legislation will help us move in that direction. Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii and California have banned straws and DC, PG, Tacoma Park and Montgomery County have bans, as well. Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products have created an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets threaten our wildlife, end up in our County streams and rivers, and pollute our air and water. I'm a frequent walker on the paths in Columbia and I regularly pick up litter; it's appalling how much of this is single use plastic, and so much of it ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Reducing plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and condiment packets helps the environment, increases awareness of the dangers of plastic disposables, and saves retailers and consumers money in the long run. Many of these items are never even used: they're put in take-out food orders even if the purchaser doesn't want them.

I know that CB13-2021 can be a step in the right direction. I hope that your colleagues on the Council will vote to protect our Environment, as well. My friends and I will be watching!

Again, thank you for using your office and your voice to increase our environmental protections in Howard County.

Susan P. White
8853 Stonebrook Lane
Columbia, Md. 21046. District 3
whitehogan@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheila Robinson <sheila_robinson@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony in favor of CB13-2021

[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 a constituent from Columbia, MD. Thank you Council Members Walsh, Jones, and Rigby for sponsoring CB13-2021.

I am very happy to join you in support of reducing availability of single use plastic straws and single use plastic cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. Doing this would put us ahead of some major trash problems that we can solve **if we want to!** It can sound complicated and intertwined with other issues or we can just begin --with CB-13.

Straws are made primarily from nonrenewable fossil fuels and are also not accepted as recyclable. A simple switch to no straws or paper straws would result in less harm to marine life, ecosystems, and our coasts. Plastic cutlery should be replaced with bamboo cutlery because the harm plastic causes vastly outweighs the benefit to society. Condiment packets need to be made of material that biodegrades.

When plastic from straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets enters our waterways, it adsorbs toxic chemicals such as DDT, PCBs, PAHs, and flame retardants found in our waterways. In 2011, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association found that plastic debris accumulates pollutants such as PCBs up to 100,000 to 1,000,000 times the levels found in seawater. The material plastic straws are made from, polypropylene #5, continues to absorb toxins up to a year after it enters our waters.

As toxins from marine plastic pollution make their way up the food chain, it poses a dangerous threat to humans and wildlife who consume them, and can lead to health problems including birth defects, cancer, and learning and growth deficits in children. Many plastics contain chemicals that leach out, especially when exposed to weathering, heat, or UV light.

Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. The Plastic Reduction Act would prevent harm to wildlife, improve our health, help keep our coasts clean, and protect our oceans and beaches for the future.

The harm straws and other single-use products create far outweigh any benefit. CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act will help create a healthier environment for generations to come.

Best,
Sheila Robinson

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Strozyk <astrozyk@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021

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

Dear County Council,

I am in full support of the new legislative bill, CB12-2021. This bill supports the urgent need to slow down the rate of climate change and the serious impacts of microplastics on the ecosystem especially our waterways as well as microplastic impacts on human health.

Thank you,
Ann Strozyk
Howard County Resident
Howard County Public School System Environmental Educator

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Benjamin <saraebenjamin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: plastics reductions act

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

Hello: I support the plastics reductions act.

Sincerely,

Sara E. Benjamin

Sayers, Margery

From: CHARLES GOEDEKE <tooldude@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 5:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB13-2021

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

Friends, & Representatives,

I would like to express my unequivocal support for CB13-2021, The Plastics Reduction Act.

We have many challenges in our modern lives, but our love of plastics is a problem that, literally, will not go away. The items that we thoughtlessly use and dispose of today will be around indefinitely, whether it is in one of our overflowing landfills, or, worse still, polluting nature because people can be so careless with disposing of their trash. For the benefit of all, now and in future generations, we need to put the brakes on this profligate use.

CB13-2021 might arguably be a small step in the right direction, but it is an important one. Please keep Howard County headed in the right direction, in caring for our environment.

Charles Goedeke
North Laurel/Scaggsville
HoCo Climate Action
Transition Howard County

Life is fragile and short and worth all the loving presence we can bring to it.
REBECCA KUSHINS

Sayers, Margery

From: E Kato <euk369@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 5:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021 in favor

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

Dear County Council,
Please pass CB13-2021. Plastic environmental contamination is a growing problem and is one of the easier problems to solve through modest and inexpensive changes in behavior. We took a major step forward with the plastic bag fee - let's continue to fix the situation, step by step.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth Kato
7335 Carved Stone, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Rohan Warriar <rohanwarriar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Concerned Citizen: Pass CB13-2021

[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,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii, and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park, and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans. Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1. By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish.

Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery, and condiment packets help the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

So, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13-2021 can make a difference.

Rohan Warriar | Elkridge, MD District 2

Sayers, Margery

From: Pat Hersey <trishhersey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Support for CB13-2021

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

Dear Council County members,

I am thankful for the introduction of The Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021, by bill sponsor Rigby and co-sponsors Jones and Walsh. I appreciate a bill that will ban plastic straws and stirrers, with all other straws, stirrers, plastic utensils and condiment packets given upon request. A common sense, practical, desperately needed bill. However, some people are already suggesting to delay enactment of the bill, since this is not the "time" for businesses to make a change.

This is exactly the time to make the change.

Studies show, for example, if a restaurant is serving 300 drinks a day, by skipping the straw, it would eliminate about 60 pounds of plastic and save \$725 per year, even while taking into account the 10% of customers who would request a straw.

Another study found that companies that offer straws on demand reduce straw consumption by 40%, diminishing the increased cost of switching to paper straws and allowing restaurants to save money while saving the planet. A worst case scenario the switch would be cost neutral.

If cost is the concern, here is the "cost" of not addressing the plastic pollution crisis:

We are producing over 300 million tons of plastic every year, 50% of which is for single-use purposes – utilized for just a few moments, but on the planet for at least several hundred years.

Plastic flow into ocean is expected to triple by 2040.

Global emissions linked to plastic — just under 900 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually — could by 2030 reach 1.3 billion tons, as much as almost 300 coal-fired power plants.

The rate of plastics production growth has increased 620 percent since 1975.

It is also worth mentioning we are eating, breathing and drinking plastic. Plastic is maiming and killing marine life. Plastic is in our rain, in our snow, and in our bodies.

I would hope this fact would give us pause:

Plastic has been found in the placentas of unborn babies.

We all want to put this pandemic behind us. But as we emerge from the COVID pandemic, let us not exacerbate another crisis because we did not have the foresight to see the seriousness of the plastic pollution pandemic.

Pat Hersey
9462 Farewell Rd.
Columbia, MD 21045
District 2



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

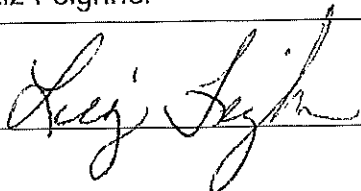
I, Liz Feighner, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HoCo Climate Action to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB13-2021 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Liz Feighner

Signature: 

Date: 2-16-2021

Organization: HoCo Climate Action

Organization Address: 10306 Champions Way, Laurel, MD 20723

10306 Champions Way, Laurel, MD 20723

Number of Members: subscription list of 1450

Name of Chair/President: Steering Committee - Ruth Alice White, Betsy Singer, Shari Glenn, Charlie Goedeke, Elisabeth Hoffman

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Defne Demirekler, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Sunrise Movement Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Plastic Reduction Act (CB-13) to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Defne Demirekler

Signature: Defne

Date: 2/13/2021

Organization: Sunrise Movement Howard County

Organization Address: Clarksville, MD 21029

Clarksville, MD 21029

Number of Members: 70

Name of Chair/President: Defne Demirekler, Emma Bush

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Patricia Hersey, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Less Plastic Please to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB13-2021 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Patricia Hersey

Signature: Patricia Hersey

Date: 2/4/21

Organization: Less Plastic Please

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21045

Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 40

Name of Chair/President: Patricia Hersey

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Meg Boyd, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Conservancy to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 13 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Meg Boyd

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 2/13/21

Organization: Howard County Conservancy

Organization Address: 10520 Old Frederick
Woodstock 21163

Number of Members: 200+

Name of Chair/President: Jonas Jacobsen

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Kim Drake, have been duly authorized by (name of individual)

Howard County Sierra Club to deliver testimony to the (name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB13-2021 to express the organization's (bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Kim Drake _____

Signature: Kimberlee Drake Date: 2/9/21

Organization: Howard County Sierra Club

Organization Address: 7338 Baltimore Ave, #102, College Park, MD 20740

Number of Members: 1350

Name of Chair/President: Carolyn Parsa

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

Sayers, Margery

From: Natasha S <n1shangold2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 3:30 PM
Subject: Please Support CB13-2021: The Plastic Reduction Act

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

Dear County Council Member,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii, and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park, and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers, and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans. Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1. By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish. Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery, and condiment packets helps the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

So, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13- 2021 can make a difference.

Thanks Always,
Natasha Shangold
8937 Skyrock Ct
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary <maryakin2401@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel
Cc: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on CB-13

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

Dear County Council Member Opel,

I have lived in Maryland for 11 years and currently live in Columbia, Maryland. I am now a student in 11th grade. I am writing to urge you to pass the Howard County Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021, so that Maryland can eliminate some of the worst pollutants that line our coasts and waterways.

It deeply saddens me when I see polluted Maryland beaches and pollution reports about the Chesapeake Bay. In the 2020 State of The Bay Report, the Chesapeake Bay received a D+, though it is experiencing some recovery, long-term, more action needs to be done to save it.

Single use plastics don't break down but they do break up into microplastics which are harder to detect and are everywhere. They are ingested and can cause health issues for many animals. Microplastics can even be found in humans now and the health effects are unclear. So the time to take action is now as if more action is not taken locally and nationally, ocean microplastics could double by 2050. Thank you for serving the community, I look forward to seeing the future of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Akinrogbe
5271 Candy Root Ct, Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Dean Baghdadi <dbaghdadi@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Hira, Safa
Subject: Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021

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

Dear County Council Member Opel Jones,

My name is Dean Baghdadi, I am a junior at Howard High School emailing you in support for the Plastic Reduction Act CB13-2021. I believe it is a necessity to ban plastic straws and stirrers and all PLA straws. As someone who works in fast food and distributes plastic materials to customers on a regular basis, I am aware of the amount of plastic materials are used on a daily basis by people. Making them only available on request will vastly reduce the amount of plastic that is used through encouraging customers utilize reusable materials.

Plastic cutlery is overused and should not be used as much by Howard County residents. Please consider making this proposed bill legislation and improve the life and environment of Howard County.

Dean Baghdadi
5456 Antrim Ct
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Marti Wade <martiwade@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Royalty, Wendy; Little, Cristiana; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Alston, Ashley; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; Skalny, Cindy; CouncilMail
Subject: CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act

[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,

As a concerned resident of Howard County, I urge you to support CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act. Plastic straws are unnecessary for the vast majority of people, and are thrown away after a single use. This waste, though seemingly small, adds up quickly and causes serious and far-reaching harm to our environment and to our health. The average American uses 1.6 straws per day. Howard County's population in 2019 was 325,690, which means that Howard County uses about 521,104 straws per day which immediately become trash. Plastic straws, plastic utensils, and plastic condiment packages are not recyclable, so they end up in our landfills and incinerators, littering our streets, clogging our storm drains, and often finding their way into our waterways where they harm and kill marine life, and enter our food chain as micro-plastics.

All of Canada and the European Union will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the United States of America, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii, and California are a few states with plastic straw bans. Closer to home, D.C., Prince George's County, Tacoma Park, and most recently, Montgomery County passed a straw ban in December, 2020. All of these areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use. Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. The Plastic Reduction Act would prevent harm to wildlife, improve our health, help keep our coasts clean, and protect our oceans and beaches for the future.

This issue is bigger than plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets. We are in a plastic pollution crisis. Reducing single-use plastics is a critical step in creating a healthy future. Let Howard County be one of the leaders in taking responsible environmental action. CB13-2021, The Plastic Reduction Act, can make a difference. We must act now.

Sincerely,

Marti Simpson
9800 Woodbridge Court
Elliott City, MD 21042-6237

.....
Dear County Council Members,
I am writing to urge you to vote in support of CB13-2021. Straws are made primarily from nonrenewable fossil fuels and are also not accepted as recyclable. As a result, countless single-use straws often end up harming marine life, ecosystems, and our coasts. Plastic should be banned because the harm they cause vastly outweighs the benefit to society.

When plastic from straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets enters our waterways, it adsorbs toxic chemicals such as DDT, PCBs, PAHs, and flame retardants found in our waterways. In 2011, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association found that plastic debris accumulates pollutants such as PCBs up to 100,000 to 1,000,000 times the levels found in seawater. The material plastic straws are made from, polypropylene #5, continues to absorb toxics up to a year after it enters our waters.

As toxins from marine plastic pollution make their way up the food chain, it poses a dangerous threat to humans and wildlife who consume them, and can lead to health problems including birth defects, cancer, and learning and growth deficits in children. Many plastics contain chemicals that leach out, especially when exposed to weathering, heat, or UV light.

Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce single-use plastic. The Plastic Reduction Act would prevent harm to wildlife, improve our health, help keep our coasts clean, and protect our oceans and beaches for the future.

The harm straws and other single-use products create far outweigh any benefit. CB13-2021, the Plastic Reduction Act will help create a healthier environment for generations to come.

Name
Address

Dear County Council Members,

As a concerned resident and constituent of yours, I am writing to ask you to support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act. All of Canada and the EU will be banning all single-use plastic this year. In the US, NJ, NY, Hawaii and California are a few states with straw bans. Closer to home, DC, PG Tacoma Park and most recently, MoCo passed a straw ban in December, 2020. All the areas are already seeing a reduction in plastic use.

Waste and litter from single-use plastics and other disposable products are creating an environmental crisis. Plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets are a threat to our health and environment, easily ending in our waterways, and releasing toxins into our air and water when incinerated and landfilled. Consumption of disposable plastics is causing irreparable damage to our marine life and oceans. Plastic pieces on the ocean surface now outnumber sea life 6 to 1. By 2050, there will be more plastics by weight than fish.

Reducing plastic straw, stirrers, cutlery and condiment packets helps the environment, but also saves retailers and consumers money.

So, knowing that most single-use products, recycled or not, are likely to end up in our oceans, CB13-2021 can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Name
address

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to you asking for you to support, the Plastic Reduction Act, CB13-2021

Here are just a few concerns I have with plastic straws:

Straws are one of the top ten plastic items found on beaches across the globe.

Last year during International Coastal Cleanup Day, over 400,000 straws and stirrers were found on beaches.

Plastic cutlery is now one of the top 10 items found on beach clean-ups. Literally trillion of condiment packets each year with no value and absolutely no recyclability.

Plastic doesn't biodegrade, it photodegrades into smaller and smaller pieces, which get ingested by marine and land animals, and into our food chain.

Once in our waterways, plastic absorbs other toxins, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Plastic straws cannot be recycled effectively.

But we must act now. An implementation delay of five years would result in an additional ~80 million metric tons of plastic going into the ocean by 2040.

This is bigger than plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and condiment packets This is a critical step of creating a healthy future.

Name

Address

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Williams <cawilliams66@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote YES for CB 13-2021

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

Please support this bill. Thank you!

Cynthia Williams

Sayers, Margery

From: Natasha S <n1shangold2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:33 PM
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Please Support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act

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

Good afternoon,

Please Support CB13-2021 The Plastic Reduction Act

Thanks Always,
Natasha Shangold

8937 Skyrock Ct, Columbia, MD 21046