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| FROM | NAME & TITLE | Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634 | | |
| | SUBJECT | City Council Bill No 08-0060 Plastic Bag Restrictions | | |

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TO The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings- Blake
President of City Council of Baltimore
400 City Hall

DATE: April 9, 2008

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports portions of the above Bill, for the purpose of prohibiting certain supermarkets and formula retail stores from using certain types of checkout bags; defining certain terms; authorizing civil enforcement action; imposing criminal penalties; and providing for a special effect date.

In the numerous workshops and community association meetings conducted by ECB, we have found that plastic litter presents societal and environmental challenges far beyond visual blight, because they are not biodegradable. The introduction of restrictions that slowly phase out items that are not recyclable and biodegradable will certainly enhance the environment for future generations.

In addition, studies show that consumers are more likely to recycle paper products, rather than properly dispose of plastic products.

ECB is in agreement that restrictions placed on plastic bags would definitely be environmental-friendly as well as it would have an operational impact on the city 's struggles to combat debris and grime. Unfortunately from an operational standpoint, ECB would have to defer to the Office of Environmental Sustainability with respect to operational and implication of the new requirements. It may be better to phase in the requirement as opposed to immediate compliance

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