


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director <i>SEB</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill No 08-0205 Plastic Bag Reduction		

TO

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

DATE: November 12, 2008

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports the above Bill, for the purpose of prohibiting retail stores from using plastic checkout bags.

In the workshops and community association meetings conducted by ECB, the littering of plastic bags cluttering the gutters of Baltimore City are of vital concern. Studies show that this is serious dilemma for urban communities. Some consumers tend to have no regard when it comes to disposing of plastic checkout bags. Plastic bags not only litter the gutters, but also attach themselves to trees and shrubs making for an unsightly appearance and are not biodegradable.

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

ECB is in agreement that prohibiting plastic carryout 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

SEB:dk

