


F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health <i>OF</i>	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0208 – Plastic Bags – Surcharge		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o  
409 City Hall

June 3, 2009

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to provide testimony in response to Council Bill 08-0208. The purpose of the Bill is to impose a surcharge on plastic bags provided by dealers to customers and provides for the collection and remittance of the surcharge.

BCHD supports the concept of the City's initiative towards sustainability and reducing the public's reliance on non-eco-friendly plastic bags. According to the EPA, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year. Billions end up as litter each year. And because plastic bags photodegrade, meaning they break down into smaller toxic pieces, soil and waterways are heavily contaminated with plastic bag byproduct. In additions, hundreds of thousands of marine life die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food.

BCHD believes that the decrease of plastic bag distribution and usage and the push towards the regular use of reuseable shopping bags would greatly benefit the environment. We are pleased to support the Council's efforts to expand access to and us of reuseable bags.

Cc: Angela Gibson

