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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD 417 East Fayette Street, Room 634
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill No 08-0052 Littering - Penalties

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



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

DATE: April 3, 2008

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports the premise of increasing the prepayable fine amounts, however in this particular Bill, it appears that the increase seems somewhat excessive for the first time increase.

To date the fines are \$50 for basic littering under the Health code. This Bill suggests that the fines be increased to \$500.00, it is probably more reasonable to increase it to somewhere less than \$250.00.

In the numerous workshops and community association meetings conducted by ECB, we have found that litter is one of the major issues affecting the revitalization of communities. The increased in penalty would definitely be an incentive in our attempts to combat dirt and grime, and the Mayor's initiative for a cleaner, greener Baltimore. Increasing the fine amount to \$500.00 will only add credence to the superstitions that many constituents voice daily to ECB that the "City" is only interested in what they can collect. If we do marginal increases we can better argue that the less punitive amounts were not addressing the issues.

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