


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 08-0208 Plastic Bag Surcharge		

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

DATE: June 8, 2009

The Environmental Control Board (**ECB**) supports the above Bill, for the purpose of imposing a surcharge on plastic bags provided by dealers to customers.

The usage of the ubiquitous plastic carry out/shopping bags has become extremely popular, however, ECB is in agreement that plastic bags are proliferating at an ever increasing rate and are detrimental to the environment.

In researching its affect on the environment, it is noted that plastic bags take more than 1,000 years to break down. Many accumulate in the ocean, causing severe problems for marine birds and mammals, such as choking and entanglement.

If a surcharge is imposed it would certainly cause a provider to think seriously regarding the economic impact to its establishment and possibly curb waste. Most effectively, it would increase the public awareness to encourage sustainable choices and to support recycling.

ECB defers to the Law Department for legal sufficiency of this bill.

SEB:dk

F/Comment

