

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

FROM: Brenda McKenzie, President and CEO *BMC/kr*

DATE: July 28, 2014

SUBJECT: City Council Bill 14-0372  
Ordinance Concerning Plastic Bag Surcharge

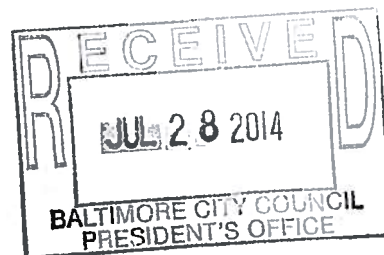
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The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) wishes to comment on City Council Bill 14-0372 which authorizes a five-cent plastic bag surcharge.

Increasing Baltimore's environmental awareness is an important goal: according to the Clean Air Council, nationally plastic bags account for approximately 1 billion shopping bags per year, which are responsible for 300,000 tons of landfill waste annually. That said, BDC believes that the bill may have an unintentional, deleterious effect on small and independent grocers in Baltimore's neighborhoods. In order to further the citywide goal of expanding access to fresh, healthy food, we are working in partnership with Department of Planning's Food Policy Office to maintain existing and increase new fresh food outlets in neighborhoods. We believe that we can tie together efforts on both sides of the issue to ensure that legislative and food access goals are met.

BDC welcomes the opportunity to discuss and explore options that address the issues while encouraging the economic success our small, independent grocers.

cc: Colin Tarbert  
Angela Gibson



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