


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 200 E. Lexington Street, Suite 100		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL NO. 12-0104 Polystyrene Products		

TO

The Honorable Bernard C. Young
 President,
 City Council of Baltimore
 400 City Hall

DATE: July 10, 2012

The Environmental Control Board (ECB) supports the bill in principle for the purpose of prohibiting food service establishments from using certain polystyrene products.

The ECB concurs to the first part of which repeals and reordains, without amendments Section(s) 6-101(c), 6-801, and 6-802 of the Health Code.

The second part of the bill adds Section 6-508 to the Health Code. ECB supports this needed change, which necessitates the addition to Section 40-14(e)(7)(Title 6) of Article I of the City Code as an enforcement mechanism for violating §6-508 of the Health Code. The stated purpose of this bill is to prohibit food service establishments from using certain polystyrene products. However if the purpose of banning polystyrene products is to promote environmental sustainability then it would be valuable to look at the practices of other cities that are moving toward sustainability.

For example the city of San Francisco not only bans the use of polystyrene for food service ware; they also require the use of biodegradable or compostable products for food service ware¹. San Francisco is a leader in environmentally friendly policies. They are routinely ranked at the top of any list that ranks the most environmentally sound cities²³. In a recent survey of 27 North American cities concerning environmental policy they were ranked number one overall and scored a perfect 100 out of 100 in the "Waste Management" category⁴.

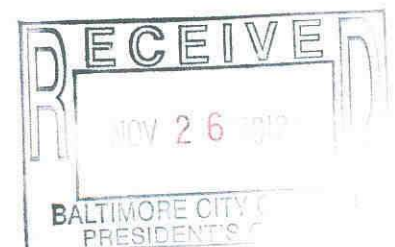
F/Comments

¹ (American Legal Publishing Corporation, 2006)

² (Svoboda, Mika, & Berhie, 2008)

³ (Sustainable Circles Corp, 2008)

⁴ (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2011)



Promoting environmental sustainability is a growing value in the United States and it is part of modern day planning for growing cities. San Francisco is a growing and prosperous city. As of 2010 they had a population of 805,235 which grew 3.7% from a population of 776,733 in 2000⁵. In 2002 they had \$ 3,546,865,000⁶ in accommodation and food services sales which grew to \$5,039,171,000 in 2007⁷. This compares to Baltimore which as of 2010 had a population of 620,961 which decreased 4.6% from a population of 651,154 in 2000⁸. Baltimore's accommodation and food services sales was \$1,434,689,000 in 2007⁹ compared to \$1,064,895,000 in 2002¹⁰.

The ECB supports the bill as written and feels that ordinances that promote environmental health is a positive step forward for Baltimore City.

⁵ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)

⁶ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)

⁷ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)

⁸ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)

⁹ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)

¹⁰ (United States Census Bureau, 2012)