

FROM	Name & Title	Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey Interim Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 14-0372 – Plastic Bag Surcharge		

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

May 5, 2014

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-0372 – Plastic Bag Surcharge. The purpose of this bill is to impose a surcharge on certain bags provided by dealers to customers.

Plastic bags are a heavily polluting resource. They constitute a great source of litter for the City and contribute to the total amount of waste entering the Harbor.

Washington, D.C. and other municipalities have enacted similar legislation. In one study, undertaken by the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), a non-profit focusing on the Potomac River Watershed, 600 Washington, D.C. residents and 51 business owners were surveyed after the fee was enacted there. The study revealed that since the fee went into effect, 75% of customers stated they were using fewer bags and 78% of business owners stated they experienced either no effect or a positive effect on their business since fewer bags had to be purchased.

BCHD supports this legislation and appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Valerie Rogers, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Shannon Mace Heller, Director of Policy and Planning, Department of Health

