



**To: House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**Re: HB0551 & SB0620 Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2015**

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

The Maryland Recycling Network fully support efforts to eliminate plastic bags from the waste stream, however, we would prefer the law use incentives rather than a mandate to achieve this end. As such, we recommend the bill maintain the Customer Bag Credit Program but be amended to require the payment of a fee for each bag, paper or plastic, used at the point of sale. Specifically amend the bill as follows:

~~17 (B) A STORE MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE PLASTIC DISPOSABLE CARRYOUT BAGS  
18 TO A CUSTOMER AT THE POINT OF SALE.~~

19 (C) (1) A STORE SHALL CHARGE AND COLLECT A FEE OF 10 CENTS FOR  
20 EACH PAPER OR PLASTIC DISPOSABLE CARRYOUT BAG THE STORE PROVIDES TO A  
CUSTOMER.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Peter Houstle at [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), 301-725-2508 or MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time-effective and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

Gemma Evans, MRN President  
Recycling Coordinator  
Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services