

I ask the County Council to pass Bill 24-24. Reducing single use plastic waste is of the utmost importance. The plastic pollution crisis is evident everywhere. For example, it's easy to spot plastic bags in the branches of our trees, along the banks of the Potomac and its tributaries, floating in our air, strewn across our public spaces, and lining our sidewalks and roads.

As a family physician, I am concerned about the effects of plastic pollution on human health. The presence of plastic in the human body has been extensively documented. As a society, our health is already declining because of self-induced illnesses such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, COPD, alcoholism, and other addictions. We cannot afford to add plastic toxicity to this list as well.

As a resident who has been picking up litter in my Silver Spring community for decades, I view asking people to bring their own bags to use when they shop, a small, cost-saving, and achievable step toward mitigating the plastic pollution crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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