

Jonathan Ferguson

Testimony in support of the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Bill (Bill 24-24)

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to support the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Bill (Bill 24-24). This bill will help to reduce the amount of single-use plastic bags in our community that unfortunately often end up as litter in our streams and forested areas.

The litter is unsightly and does incalculable harm to our water and animals that live in it. I try to do my part in cleaning up these bags as I walk along our county roads. However, the problem is too great for individuals such as myself to solve. I have often wished there was a way to eliminate this type of waste from getting into our environment at the outset. This bill represents a great way to accomplish this goal.

Reusable bags are cheap and easy for individuals to bring shopping. Only a little planning is required, such as keeping a reusable bag or two in their vehicle. The bill also still allows paper bags as a backup option but increases the fee to use one to incentivize individuals to do the advance planning for their next shopping trip.

Similar bills have been proven successful in Prince George's County and Baltimore City. I urge the Council to support this bill and join their efforts.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ferguson