

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MD PROPOSED BILL 24-24 TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS AND INCREASE FEE
ON PAPER BAGS

Council members – I am a former resident of Montgomery County, from 1993-2018 and I worked for MCDEP in the Watershed Restoration Division from 2010-2018. I worked for MoCo when the original bag tax was implemented by the mediocre executive Isaiah Leggett. Its purpose was to raise revenue only, as evidenced by how much was taken in during the first year of implementation. It showed that people paid the nuisance tax for the most part and didn't really reduce plastic bag consumption. The fact that paper bags were also taxed was the most idiotic part of the bill, since paper is biodegradable. The better solution then (and now) is to increase cleanup efforts and enforce fines for littering. As a DEP employee I participated in a cleanup day on a Saturday in the Fall of 2011 off Layhill Rd. A group of 10-12 picked up a large amount of trash including many plastic bags. In my remaining years at DEP there were no additional efforts that I recall. Taxing paper bags was always a stupid idea and remains that. Shift the efforts to trash pickup and fining the slobbers that litter. Or encourage stronger plastic bags, like they used to be, that won't get blown around by the wind. The tax was an inconvenience for businesses to comply with and created more government involvement that was not needed. I know all of you like to raise taxes and what you don't make mandatory you want to ban, however this is piling on the stupidity.

Sincerely

Michael Lichty

Former Montgomery County resident