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Re: Support of Senate Bill 313 /House Bill 209 (Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act)

Dear Senator/Delegate,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 313/House Bill 209 (Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act). My name is Joseph Jakuta and I live in Mount Rainier, MD in District 47A. I am writing in regards to this legislation as a resident of the District. Disposable plastic bags are a problem that is gotten so out of control that it no longer can be solved through light means. To progress to a state that is once again a beauty to visit and live in we must ban disposable plastic bags.

My weekends are often spent going on hikes with my two small children in Maryland's great state parks, jogging along the trails that follow the Anacostia River, or taking bike rides throughout the state. Nearly every day of the week I also walk to the bus stop by Joe's Movement Emporium with my eldest child in the morning or walk my dog throughout the City of Mount Rainier and neighboring Brentwood. And wherever I go from the most pristine parks of Western Maryland to the Cedar Lane Alley behind the Glut Food Coop there are plastic bags everywhere. Through all of these experiences I can say for certain its time for a change, it is time to ban disposable bags.

I also have lead numerous litter pick ups around Mount Rainier as a member and as the chair of the Mount Rainier Green Team. I also regularly participate in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day clean up as a site leader and go on plogs (a plog is where someone jogs and pick up trash as they run). In all these instances there seems to be no limit to how many disposable bags there are that are tarnishing our beautiful state. And volunteers can only do so much to clean up a mess we aren't even responsible for. It is time for a systematic change. It is time to join California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon, and Vermont and ban disposable plastic bags.

To help with evidence to provide to colleagues I also attached some pictures from plogs I have done in 2020 as an attachment.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 313/House Bill 209. Together we can make Maryland beautiful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Jakuta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Joseph Jakuta
Mount Rainier, MD

Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 1
Quite a plastic bag haul for my first run of the New Year in MD-47 along the NW Branch. Resolve to support the MD Plastic Bag Ban in 2020.
[@anacostiaws](#) [@TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 11
Beautiful white bag in a tree in Mount Rainier. [#MDBagBan2020](#)
[#TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 26
Another plastic bag full run through MD22 & MD47. So many bags y'all get two tweets today! [#MDBagBan2020](#) [#TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 5
Small, but very wet and yucktastic plastic bag haul on today's dog walk.
[#MDBagBan2020](#) [#TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 25
The end of another run through the beautiful plastic bag lined streets of suburban Maryland. [#MDBagBan2020](#) [#TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 26
Another plastic bag full run through MD22 & MD47. And here is the second tweet. [#MDBagBan2020](#) [#TrashFreeMD](#)



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Jan 27

Only one bag per block found on a quick lunchtime dog walk to the park in suburban Maryland. #MDBagBan2020 #TrashFreeMD



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Feb 1

Another plastic bag full dog walk along the Anacostia NW Branch. Glad @anacostiaws, @TrashFreeMD, @MDSierraClub and others are working hard to end this! #MDBagBan2020 #TrashFreeMD



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Feb 2

Another plastic bag #plog in MD47. Note this is the same 1/4 mile I did on yesterday's dog walk. Glad @AugustineMLA and @JulianiveyPG are sponsoring bills to end this scourge. #MDBagBan2020 #TrashFreeMD



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Feb 9

I scampered through part of 47B along the NW Branch on my #plog today. Glad to see that @WanikaFisher is working to end this problem by co-sponsoring the #MDBagBan2020. #TrashFreeMD



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Jakuta @green_jakuta · Feb 17

Lovely day for a holiday dog walk around Mount Rainier. Surprised at the small bag haul. Still 5 bags too many. #TrashFreeMD #MDBagBan2020



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