On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our opposition to **SB 223 – Plastic Bag Reduction Act**.

This legislation would prohibit retail businesses from providing a plastic carryout bag to a customer. On the surface, this bill has good intentions. However, the costs from requiring retail businesses to use other types of carryout bags will be excessive and will not reduce waste.

Additionally, many customers who receive plastic carryout bags reuse those bags in other ways, including as garbage can liners. If these reusable plastic bags are no longer available, these individuals will have to purchase other plastic garbage can liners which again will not reduce trash. Plastic bags must be used in trash receptacles as cloth bags can become soiled and paper bags may tear open.

While this may be well-meaning legislation, the unintended consequences must be considered.

The Chamber respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE committee report on SB 223**.

Sincerely,

**Nicole Christian, IOM, CCE**
President & CEO
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
(301) 387-8745 office
(301) 616-0396 mobile
www.visitdeepcreek.com
nicole@garrettchamber.com