



## CORSICA RIVER CONSERVANCY

May 23, 2023

Dear President Kline, Vice President Kaiser,  
and members of the Centreville Town Council,

We write in support of the ordinance, introduced at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, to amend the town code to create a new chapter 102 to prohibit retail establishments from providing plastic carryout bags to customers. Through our annual stream clean-ups, our adoption of Watson Road, and the individual efforts of our members, we have seen firsthand the unsightly plastic bags that litter our roadways. As an organization committed to the health of the Corsica River and surrounding watershed, we also know of the damage bags do to habitat and water quality. Finally, as residents of the town and surrounding areas, we are eager to see legislation that will have a broader potential impact on statewide and other environmental solutions.

The ordinance allows Centreville to join with many other jurisdictions that have already taken similar steps. Surveys taken by PlasticFreeQAC and presentations to the County Commissioners by high school students show broad support for the ordinance. In moving forward, we would encourage further discussion of how to meet the goals of the ordinance in a way that does not unnecessarily burden local businesses in the short term. And we would also encourage discussion of how the ordinance will be enforced and what penalties will accrue for non-compliance.

We recognize that implementing this ordinance will necessitate a cultural change. Its adoption will be the first step.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank DiGialleonardo  
President  
Corsica River Conservancy

P.O. Box 235  
Centerville, MD 21617  
<http://corsicariverconservancy.org>