



E-mail note on plastic litter (Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act of 2010 (HB 351/ SB 462) to local delegates and senators

Sent on January 21, 2010 by the Board of *Friends of Sligo Creek*

The Board of the Friends of Sligo Creek looks forward to your support of legislation that will reduce plastic litter in Maryland. The Friends of Sligo Creek is an all-volunteer group that is working to preserve and improve the natural benefits of the watershed of Sligo Creek. Among other things, we pick up litter from our local public areas. For eight years we've held "SWEEP the Creek" events in Spring and Fall. At each, we typically turn out several hundred volunteers who remove several hundred trashbags of litter and other debris from in and around our beloved creek. Plastic bags and bottles constitute an alarming share of the junk we gather up. We believe this plastic litter is particularly problematic since it tends to move so easily from streets and playgrounds to woods and our streams. There is also growing evidence that plastic is accumulating rapidly in the ocean and other parts of Earth's biosphere and seems likely to be toxic to critters that form the base of food chains.

We recently learned that bills will be introduced in both the Senate and House of Delegates that address plastic bag litter. We hope you will work hard to see that useful legislation can be passed this session. Also, as the opportunity arises, we would very much like to see legislation passed to help control plastic bottle trash.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect the environment of Maryland!

[The requested legislation was not passed by the legislature in 2010.]