



General Assembly Public Hearing Statement

Delivered January 6, 2018, before the Fairfax County Delegation

I am Julie Chang, speaking on behalf of the Friends of Accotink Creek, a volunteer group dedicated to preserving the well-being of the Accotink Creek watershed.

Among the several causes of impairment to the health of Accotink Creek, the most easily observed is trash, washed off streets and down stormdrains to accumulate in our waters. Over the past five years, our volunteers have removed 2600 bags of trash from Accotink Creek alone, without making a visible impact in the problem. This is just one of many streams in our region.

Nearly all this trash is plastic in its many and marvelous forms, plastic which will never biodegrade, never go away, but merely degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, which will remain with us and in us, accumulating for a long time.

The world will come to regret our careless behavior with this useful, but hazardous material. The Friends of Accotink Creek urge you to support [SB139 and SB193](#), two bills which address a part of the issue by placing limits on the waste of disposable plastic bags. Other states, cities, and nations have taken such steps before us without suffering negative consequences. Virginia can join them in leading the way. Please support SB139 and SB193.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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