



## Plastic Bag Bill Testimony 2018

**January 24, 2018, before the Virginia House of Delegates Finance Committee**

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

Plastic trash is a gift the waters of Virginia care not to receive. Yet they do receive it, in a limitless supply that grows faster than anyone can clean it up. Disposable bags are a major component of the sorry mess lining the banks of so many of our streams.

Hundreds of volunteer groups like ours conduct regular stream cleanups across Virginia, but it is a losing proposition. Commonwealth and local agencies must spent taxpayer funds endlessly cleaning up after the careless and irresponsible.

Plastic trash is immortal. It never decomposes, but rather just becomes smaller and smaller pieces that endure forever.

Other states, cities, and nations have taken such steps without suffering negative consequences. Dallas has done it - Ireland, Israel, Taiwan, Australia - and North Carolina.

Virginia should join in leading the way to stem the rising tide of plastic trash by insisting that responsibility go hand in hand with profit and convenience.

Please support HB981

---

**January 23, 2018, before the Virginia Senate Local Government Committee**

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

We could propose an alternate measure, to replace the Brook Trout as Virginia's state fish with the soggy plastic bag, ubiquitous in our streams and rivers. OR we could support SB193

Accotink Creek is just one of many hundreds of streams in our Commonwealth. Over the past five years, our volunteers have removed 2600 bags of trash, without making a visible impact in the problem on this one little creek.

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 eternity.

The world will come to regret our careless behavior with this useful, but hazardous material.

The Friends of Accotink Creek urge you to support SB193, which addresses a part of the issue by placing limits on the waste of disposable plastic bags.

In just the past month, McDonalds and Coca-Cola have announced plans to move to 100% plastic waste elimination.

Other states, cities, and nations have taken such steps without suffering negative consequences. Dallas has done it - Ireland, Israel, Taiwan, Australia - and North Carolina.

Don't let the Tarheels beat us! Virginia can lead the way.

Please support SB193.

---

**January 17, 2018, before the Virginia Senate Finance Committee**

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

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 Commonwealth.

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 eternity.

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 which addresses 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

**Friends of Accotink Creek**  
**Get your brain wet!**

><(((0>` .,.,. ~` .,.,><(((0>, ., ., ., ><(((0>