2/5/15

Honorable Delegates representing Accotink Watershed Districts 42, 37, 41, 35, 38, 43, and 39 respectively,

The Friends of Accotink Creek support SB1103, which allows localities to control the sale of disposable plastic bags. We strongly endorse and support efforts like this one to reduce trash in local watersheds. As State Delegates representing part of the Accotink Watershed, we encourage you to support the work of your many constituents who participate in our stream cleanups, by voting for SB1103. This will allow localities to choose whether to ban the use of most disposable plastic bags, empowering counties and municipalities to decide for themselves how to address this important issue.

Each year Friends of Accotink Creek and other civic groups mobilize volunteers who clean tons of plastic bags and containers, as well as trash and debris including tires and metal, from streams that feed into the Chesapeake Bay. Across the United States, millions of tons of plastic waste is dumped into waterways, fouling waters for both marine life and human usage.

Reducing consumer consumption of plastic bags, by means of bans, restrictions, and/or taxes, is an effective way to reduce the amount of plastic trash that enters our watersheds, and flows downstream to the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, and eventually out to the Atlantic Ocean to join the Great North Atlantic Garbage Patch, strangling marine life along the way, and breaking down into toxic particles that bioaccumulate in plankton and fish, traveling back up the food chain into the fish that we eat.

Let's get the bags out of Accotink!

"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."

George Bernard Shaw

Thank-you for your attention in this important matter. I also hope you'll be able to join us during our Spring Stream Clean-ups, on Saturdays from April 4th to May 2nd, including the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on April 11.

Kris Unger, Primary Conservator, Friends of Accotink Creek