



January 23, 2023

Clean Fairfax Council (established in 1985) is a 501c3 nonprofit operating in Fairfax County. We are one of the recipients, through a memorandum of understanding with Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services of the Commonwealth's "Litter Tax Grant."

We use these funds to support hundreds of cleanups, activating thousands of volunteers, who pick up literally tons of trash, with municipal and corporate matches which make this tax one of the best returns on investment in the Commonwealth. With our municipal and nonprofit colleagues across Virginia, we are in schools and businesses helping folks make better choices about how they deal with their trash, recycling, and packaging, all while seeing the pressures from industry for more plastic, and more plastic pollution, at a time when solid waste management and recycling programs are in crisis in many counties and cities in Virginia.

We are asking you to vote against this bill reducing the late fee down to \$10, because unlike many other late fees for taxes in Virginia which go into a combination of covering the cost of chasing down the late taxes and general funds, the late fee for the litter tax actually goes back into the dedicated fund, which is then distributed to organizations like Clean Fairfax and the 100s of localities around Virginia which do the never-ending work of picking up the litter left by residents and businesses and travelers—to the tune of over 3.5 million dollars a year according to VDOT, and the litter fund, established over 44 years ago, doesn't even come close to covering. In addition, the VA Litter Tax ranks as THE lowest per capita litter taxes in the country.

Finally, a reminder that this tax exists because of a deal struck by industry and retail to avoid a bottle bill and considering the amount of beverage containers we pick up in Virginia's streams and rivers, paying the paltry sum of the litter tax ON TIME is really the least these entities can do.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Jennifer Cole

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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