**To:** Store Manager

 BILL’S PLACE

 1516 WEST BALTIMORE STREET

We are students from Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts High School. We are working with stores and restaurants in Baltimore to develop ways to prevent pest from entering and eliminating the use of harmful pesticides. Pesticides are toxic chemicals and designed to kill insects, mice, rats, roaches. They are toxic because they are linked to cancer, causes breathing problems, muscle and joint pains, rashes, learning disability, & infertility. Also, it is linked to birth defects and miscarriages cause GI problems: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Customers, workers, and babies are most at risk. Another reason is it harms the environment because when the pesticides get into the water, it goes to the Bay. While in the Bay, it can hurt the marine life.

On February, 4th 2014 we visited your store and we talked to you about pesticides and safer alternatives. When we are in your store we noticed some positive practices like using a trashcan with a lid, using only gels for the pesticides, and keep toxins away from food. We also noticed that you do not have a door sweep.

You can defend your business and your customers by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in your store. IPM is a way to prevent pest without using things that are toxic. It’s a long-term solution to prevent pests without using toxic chemicals. It’s also a preventive measure by practicing good housekeeping.

Some of the improvements that are needed are installing door sweep(s) and sealing cracks/holes. It’s important for your door to have door sweeps because it increases your pest prevention by 65%.

We recommend that you keep up the positive things you are doing like: having a lid on the trashcan, using gel type pesticides, keeping the pesticides away from the food, and not selling any pesticides in your store. We hope that you consider apply IPM in your store.

Sincerely,

AFSIVA Green Club