

Testimony from Rene Maldonado

I am a retired chemist residing in the Cedar Creek community in Columbia. I have Multiple Sclerosis, which prevents me from delivering this testimony in person today. Bills HB-1058 and HB-1092 are important to my community and I ask for your support.

Currently, WR Grace is planning to operate a chemical recycling pilot plant on their campus, located just yards from our residences.

This operation will utilize a fluid catalytic cracking reactor to break down plastic polymers. Three-quarters of the starting polymer feedstock will end up burned in an incinerator after gasification occurs in the reactor.

This operation is scheduled to run for 16 hours a day, year-round, for years to come.

This plant will generate toxic emissions, produce solid toxic catalyst waste that could contaminate the soil, and store up to nine drums of fuel at their facilities each year. The potential for negative health effects and catastrophic accidents is significant.

As a pilot facility, the Grace plant will conduct experiments where the chemical ingredients and the process conditions will be changed daily. This type of experimentation is inherently very dangerous and does not belong in a residential neighborhood. WR Grace already has industrial locations in North Baltimore and Pennsylvania where they could conduct these experiments more safely.

We need laws and regulations in place to prevent this type of operation from taking place in residential areas.

Again, please help our community remain safe and healthy by approving these two bills.

Thank you.

Rene Maldonado