

Testimony of Lisa Krausz

In Support of HB 1092 - Recycling - Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic

Greetings. My name is Lisa Krausz. I am a resident of River Hill Village in Clarksville, Maryland, and I also suffer from a reactive pulmonary condition which limits my mobility and health. I have served as PTSA President for my kids' high school and also served at the county level promoting parent ed programs and school safety initiatives. I care deeply about the well being and health of Howard County children, families, and residents as well as throughout our state.

Like many of us speaking out in support of HB1092, I am gravely concerned about the advent of chemical recycling plants, facilities and research facilities in our state. Where I live, W.R. Grace's is proposing to initiate a plastic R&D facility smack-dab in the middle of our residential communities. I was so disturbed by this proposed project that back in August, I co-founded the Stop Grace Plastic Burning Project with other Howard County residents.

An online petition was created at that time opposing the Grace plastics project. Currently, the petition has approximately 815 signatures, over 50% of which represent households of 4 or more people, and within that number 15% represent households of 5 or more. I am submitting a copy of this petition for your information. The signatures accrue daily.

The fact is that when people learn about chemical recycling projects to be situated in their communities, they oppose it. Pulmonologists, pediatricians, oncologists, and environmental toxicologists know that this facility and those like it will negatively impact the health and safety of people residing even miles away from it whether from toxic emissions and the very real possibilities of fires and leaks, which are not uncommon.

We need our state legislators to stand up and take bold action to stop these polluting facilities which are springing up all over the country. Contrary to the PR efforts, chemical processing of plastic is NOT recycling; it simply creates a whole new stream of waste with horrible health implications for those living near and around these projects. This is not the solution to our plastic problem. Please support HB 1092 for the state of Maryland health and well-being.