

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**  
a chapter of the



**National  
Waste & Recycling  
Association<sup>SM</sup>**  
Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Sara Love

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: January 29, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 21 – *Environment – Recycling – Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic*

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The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 21.

House Bill 21 not only excludes from the definition of recycling, new and innovative technologies for processing plastic into usable materials and products, but also prohibits the building of facilities in Maryland that use these technologies. While MDSWA understands that there is significant interest in limiting and/or eliminating plastic materials, they remain a significant component of the current waste and recycling streams. Even if the volume of plastic material is reduced over time, there will still be a need to process and manage plastic as it will remain a material that is essential for many critical products. Conversion of plastic directly into other products or as feedstock for new product development is much more environmentally beneficial than disposal of these materials or, in many instances, recycling of plastics through traditional recycling facilities. To that end, House Bill 21 actually works to impede meaningful recycling and new technology development for processing plastics. For these reasons, an unfavorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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