



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 21

Environment—Recycling—Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic
House Environment & Transportation Committee

Friday, January 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 21 would alter the definition of recycling to exclude certain chemical conversion processes, pyrolysis, hydrolysis, methanolysis, gasification, enzymatic breakdown, or similar processes to be determined by the Maryland Department of Environment. Effectively, this bill amounts to a ban on the utilization of advanced recycling technologies in Maryland.

Advanced plastics recycling, or chemical recycling, refers to a group of technologies that convert post-use plastics into their original building blocks, specialty polymers, and feedstocks for new plastics, waxes, lubricants, and other valuable products. It is these technologies that allow us to keep post-use plastics out of landfills and the environment, and to meet our waste and sustainability goals.

Further, it is a common misconception that plastics are burned during advanced recycling processes. Advanced recycling technologies often use heat, but take place in the absence of oxygen, the key ingredient for combustion. Instead of being combusted, plastics' physical form is altered to form new feedstocks for plastics, chemicals, and other products.

Nine states have passed legislation to encourage these types of technologies, rather than ban them, because they acknowledge their benefits to technology and innovation. What is more, these states recognize the tremendous economic opportunity presented by advanced recycling technologies. Closed Loop Partners, a New York based investment firm, recently found that advanced recycling presents a [\\$120 billion economic opportunity](#) nationwide.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 21.