



January 27, 2021

Testimony on **HB 0021**  
***Environment – Recycling – Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic***  
***Environment and Transportation Committee***

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering my testimony today. My name is Jesse Chladil, a resident of Baltimore, in District 40. I am a member of the Sunrise Movement Baltimore, a movement led by young people fighting against the climate crisis. This testimony represents my support for HB 0021, Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic Act.

Chemical conversion of plastic is simply not recycling. It is turning plastic into oil to burn as a fossil fuel, which contributes to our climate crisis. We already are seeing the flooding, extreme weather, hotter summers, and rising sea levels in Maryland. We should be reducing our use of fossil fuels, not sustaining or increasing it. Converting plastic back to fossil fuels releases huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. Additionally, the toxic pollution from these chemical conversion projects would likely be placed in marginalized communities already overburdened with so many polluting projects. We shouldn't allow chemical conversion of plastic in Maryland, which will only pollute our communities and exacerbate the climate crisis.

In Maryland and around the world we do indeed have a huge plastic problem, but chemical conversion of plastic is only an excuse that will do little to solve the real issue. We find so many plastics on our streets and in our waterways. Yet we can't recycle our way out of this crisis, we have to cut it at its source. We must move beyond plastic and fossil fuel dependency and instead create a circular economy based in reuse. There's a reason the 3 R's of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle start with reduction and reuse. Real recycling nor chemical conversion would be enough to solve our plastic problem. Don't let the industry lobbyists fool you with this faulty solution. Our climate and futures are on the line.

I support this bill because I believe in recycling. The future of our world depends on reducing, reusing and recycling. Chemical recycling is decidedly none of those things. I believe that Maryland should be among the leaders of this nation on this issue. I believe that it can't be overstated that until we eliminate chemical recycling we will never truly reduce carbon emissions and pollution. I beg all senators and delegates alike to recognize this threat and fight for a safer, more stable future for a



What is in this bill:

- Prohibit facilities that chemically convert plastic into fuels in Maryland
- Exclude certain chemical conversion processes from the definition of recycling

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jesse Chladil  
3732 Roland Ave  
Baltimore, MD  
District 40