



HB322 – Environment – Recycling – Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic

Testimony before Environment & Transportation Committee

January 29, 2021

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB21**, to prohibit the Chemical Conversion of Plastic, and to stop a newly emerging toxic industry in its tracks here in Maryland. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

This bill will prohibit a number of methods of taking mostly single-use plastic produced from fracked gas, turning it back into feedstock. These methods are a sham from the petrochemical industry, generating thousands of tons of toxics into our air and water, and continuing to lock in the extraction of climate-busting fossils fuels. As we move forward with aggressive climate goals in our state, this conversion of plastics waste will make it much more difficult for us to succeed at these goals. Chemical recycling will hurt the emerging green materials business community, by artificially lowering the demand for real alternatives to the use of single use plastics. ***This is also an environmental justice issue, as these toxic facilities are planned to be located in our most vulnerable communities, adding to their burden of air pollution and associated public health effects.***

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We urge a favorable report on HB21.

Richard Deutschmann
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