



January 22, 2021

To: Members of the Maryland State House of Representatives

RE: Maryland House Bill 21

We are writing to ask you to oppose Maryland House Bill 21 which would ban use of advanced recycling in the state. Advanced recycling is an important emerging technology that helps eliminate plastic waste from the environment and supports achievement of state and local sustainability and zero waste goals. Banning this recycling innovation would increase the amount of landfilling and materials in the environment, squander potential recycling of valuable material, and forgo economic growth and opportunity.

This innovative technology (sometime referred to as chemical conversion) converts post-use plastics into their original building blocks to produce new plastics, waxes, and other valuable products. It's important to note that plastics are not burned during advanced recycling. Advanced recycling technologies often use thermal energy (heat), but take place in the absence of oxygen, so there is no combustion.

Advanced recycling complements traditional (mechanical) recycling and enables us to recycle greater amounts and a wider variety of plastics, helping eliminate plastic waste. While successful recycling infrastructure is in place for plastics such as soda bottles and milk jugs, advanced recycling technologies focus on harder-to-recycle plastics, such as candy wrappers, plastic tubes, tubs and lids, pouches and



many forms of packaging. Banning advanced recycling would mean more landfilling and wasting valuable post-use plastics.

More than 400 global companies have set goals to include more recycled content in their packaging. To get there, organizations are innovating and growing to meet this demand. Since 2017, there have been \$4.3 billion worth of announced advanced recycling projects in the U.S. The economic basis for such investment is clear. A [2019 report](#) by the Closed Loop Partners, an organization that invests in the development of the circular economy, found there is tremendous demand for the products of advanced recycling. The report concluded “Our analysis indicates that these technologies could meet an addressable market with potential revenue opportunities of \$120 billion in the United States and Canada alone.”

For Maryland to ban these technologies would be like banning electric car or solar power technologies in their early stages. In fact, nine other states have recently passed legislation encouraging new advanced recycling technologies. This bill is misguided, reflects a misunderstanding of the technology, and would set the precedent that Maryland opposes technological innovations.

We encourage you to oppose HB 21. Please feel free to contact Josh Young, Josh_Young@americanchemistry.com, at the American Chemistry Council if you have any questions.

