



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 Katherine, a resident of Baltimore, in District 43. 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 CO₂ 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 and regenerative 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.

Sunrise Movement is a movement to stop the climate crisis and create millions of green and good-paying jobs in the process. We fight against oppression and environmental racism. Allowing chemical conversion of plastic into fuel in Maryland would do the opposite of that. We young people are worried about our futures and our environment and we urge you to put us at the forefront of your decision-making.



Please:

- 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,

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