

January 26, 2021

Regarding Opposition to Recycling: Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic - House Bill 21

Dear Chairman Kumar Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

Sealed Air Corporation recognizes its responsibility as an industry leader in protective packaging to actively champion solutions to mitigate environmental impacts both of plastic packaging as well as the products they protect. We are actively engaged with multiple organizations around the world to improve recycling infrastructure and invest in new solutions to recover value from waste. Sealed Air announced in 2018 a pledge to advance our packaging solutions to be 100% reusable or recyclable by 2025 and to incorporate an average of 50% recycled content in our packaging.

Sealed Air Corporation opposes excluding advanced recycling technologies from the definition of recycling, including, but not limited to, Pyrolysis, Hydrolysis, Methanolysis, Gasification, Enzymatic Breakdown, or similar chemical conversion processes. In addition, we encourage the state of Maryland to embrace expansion of the recycling infrastructure to include advanced recycling technologies that are critical to creating a robust path of circularity/recycling for plastic packaging waste currently going to landfill.

Flexible packaging plastic films, in contrast to other materials, offer the high-performance that is essential for maintaining medical sterility and food protection. There are no effective non-plastic replacement products. Most high-performance plastic films cannot be recycled using existing mechanical recycling technology and flexible films that can rarely result in recycled material of a quality useful for food or medical packaging. In fact, mechanical recycling produces products that cannot remain in the chain of circularity indefinitely due to performance reduction. Advanced recycling, on the other hand, allows high quality materials to remain indefinitely in the cycle of use. If we are to reduce our use of virgin materials, reduce plastic waste and maintain or improve food security, health and safety we must be able to utilize advanced recycling to produce high quality starting materials.

It is imperative that these technologies be included in the Maryland definition of "recycling" thus keeping these materials "in play" and not going to landfill or incineration.

We understand that there have been concerns about emissions from waste incineration in Baltimore. We believe that it is critical for all production facilities to meet strict standards for air and ground water contamination so that the health and safety of neighboring communities are maintained. Advanced recycling technologies are distinct from waste-to-energy incineration. Advanced recycling is critical to addressing the challenges of plastic waste and necessary to maintain the availability of virgin quality recycled resins to meet the needs of medical and food applications that have strict Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

Please contact us if we can provide additional information as we work toward a mutually beneficial solution.

Sincerely,



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cc: Delegate Sara Love

