



RE: MD HB21 – Environment – Recycling – Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic

Hello. My name is Robert Flores, and I am the Vice President of Sustainability for Berry Global.

Headquartered in the United States, Berry is a leading global supplier of a wide range of innovative rigid and flexible, plastic packaging as well as nonwoven products used every day within consumer, healthcare and industrial end markets. In Maryland, we proudly employ over 700 team members across three manufacturing sites in Baltimore, Hanover, and Cumberland.

I join you today to share our concerns with House Bill 21. We believe that advanced recycling, including conversion technologies that convert plastic into chemical feedstocks, can and *will*, play a significant role in the transition to a circular economy for plastics.

In fact, just last year Berry publicized two off-take agreements we signed in Europe to purchase recycled plastic made via the advanced recycling techniques HB 21 aims to prohibit. We also announced a partnership with Mondelez International to produce packaging made from this material for Philadelphia, the world's most popular cream cheese.

In addition to these public announcements, we are in active discussions with our suppliers in both Europe and North America in regards to this vital technology. That is because we believe it will play that significant of a role in our future plans.

In 2019 Berry committed that 100% of our fast-moving consumer goods packaging would be reusable, recyclable, or compostable as well as have an average of 10% recycled content by 2025. Advanced recycling is in a unique position to assist with both of these goals – not only creating a new end market for plastic that isn't being recycled today via traditional recycling technologies, but also providing high quality recycled content that is suitable to be used in food contact and other regulated applications that would otherwise prevent the use of recycled content.

Our announcement with Mondelez, using recycled plastic in cream cheese packaging, would not be possible without advanced recycling. Otherwise, there simply is not recycled content available that is suitable for cream cheese containers.

If we want to close the loop and end plastic waste once and for all, while continuing to receive the many benefits plastics provide, such as reducing food waste and optimizing material use, we must encourage the development of breakthrough technologies like advanced recycling. That is why Berry has given these technologies so much attention. We truly believe advanced recycling is critical to achieving a circular economy for plastics.

In summary, we oppose House Bill 21. We do not believe the referenced technologies should be prohibited. We further believe these technologies should be considered recycling, especially when used to create new plastic products.

Thank you for your time.