



TEKNIPLEX[™]
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January 21, 2021

RE: MDH.B.0021: Environment – Recycling – Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic
Maryland Legislature

Mr. Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing to express our opposition to HB 21. Advanced Recycling (AR) is a viable and scalable technology to reduce plastic entering the environment, including litter, ocean plastic, landfill or waste to energy.

For food packaging applications, mechanical recycling has limitations. One limitation is that the FDA does not allow for certain postconsumer recycled (PCR) material to be included in new food packaging. A second limitation is that each time a material is mechanically recycled, its quality degrades. Both of these limitations make PCR content in food packaging difficult. This is likely the main reason that the market for certain types of PCR is small and recycling rates low.

Through AR, post-consumer food packaging can be processed back into a feedstock for plastic and then used to make new materials. The process removes any possible contaminant allowing the new material to be used in food packaging applications. This is not possible with mechanical recycling.

AR allow plastics to be sourced from the plastics waste stream rather than from fossil fuels, helping to promote the circular economy while reducing the use of fossil fuels. Plastic sourced from plastics can be used again and again without a degradation in quality.

Advance Recycling should be included in the definition of recycling and should be promoted rather than banned.

Tekni-Plex is a globally-integrated company focused on developing and manufacturing products for a wide variety of end markets, including medical, pharmaceutical, food, beverage, personal care, household and industrial uses.

Respectfully urging an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

George Braddon

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