



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 Molly Sherman, a resident of Dickerson, in District 15. 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 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.

I want to be able to breathe air and know that it's not toxic for myself, my family, and my livestock. I would like to be able to support businesses and know that my consumption is not contributing to air that harms the people I love in Maryland. I believe that we should, and can, live in a world where our air does not have to be toxic for anyone. And Maryland can do it. So, let's:

- 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,

Molly Sherman
17410 Ryefield Ct
Dickerson
District 15