

February 2, 2021

To: Members of the Maryland State House of Representatives

RE: Maryland House Bill 21

I am contacting you to urge you to oppose Maryland House Bill 21, which would ban the use of advanced plastics recycling in the State of Maryland. My company, Brightmark, is dedicated to deploying advanced technology solutions that address some of the most critical environmental crises; reducing greenhouse emissions through the increased deployment of anaerobic digesters and decreasing plastic waste through the use of enhanced pyrolysis.

Brightmark was founded on the promise of not just recycling but reimagining waste. Our first of its kind facility in Ashley, Indiana will take over 100,000 tons of mixed plastic waste (numbers 1-7) and through the use of enhanced pyrolysis transform it into ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, naphtha and wax. The next step in our journey toward circularity is to convert post-use plastics into the feedstocks of new plastics replacing the additional fossil fuels which would normally be required to manufacture virgin plastics. Brightmark is adding additional facilities across the United States and internationally to address the acute challenges caused by waste plastics.

Advanced plastic recycling not only helps eliminate plastic waste from the environment, it also supports state and local sustainability and zero waste goals. Banning this recycling technology would force additional plastic waste into landfills and incinerators or require it to be shipped to other localities. All of these options increase the amount of plastic waste in our environment, squanders the potential of recycling valuable material, and impedes economic growth and opportunity.

Advanced recycling complements traditional (mechanical) recycling and enables us to recycle greater amounts and a wider variety of plastics, helping eliminate plastic waste. While successful recycling infrastructure is in place for plastics such as soda bottles and milk jugs, advanced recycling technologies focus on harder-to-recycle plastics, such as candy wrappers, plastic tubes, tubs and lids, pouches and many forms of packaging.

More than 400 global companies have set goals to include more recycled content in their packaging. To get there, organizations are innovating to meet this demand. Since 2017, there has been \$4.3 billion worth of announced advanced recycling projects in the U.S. The economic basis for such investment is clear. A [2019 report](#) by the Closed Loop Partners, an organization that invests in the development of the circular economy, found there is tremendous demand for advanced recycling. The report concluded “Our analysis indicates that these technologies could meet an addressable market with potential revenue opportunities of \$120 billion in the United States and Canada alone.”

For Maryland to ban these technologies would be like banning electric car or solar power technologies in their early stages. In fact, nine other states have recently passed legislation encouraging new advanced recycling technologies. This bill reflects a significant misunderstanding of the technology and would set the precedent that Maryland opposes technological innovations.



235 Pine Street, Suite 1100
San Francisco, CA 94104
415-810-0448
Brightmark.com

We believe that there are technological solutions to our plastic waste problem. We strongly urge you to reject this bill as it will discourage the development of these technologies when they are needed the most. Finally, as you continue to study the plastic waste problem and possible solutions to address it, please feel free to call on Brightmark as a resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Powell".

Bob Powell,
Founder & CEO