



Testimony on: HB1092 –Recycling - Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic
Sponsor: Delegate Terrasa
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization: Less Plastic Please, Indivisible Howard County & HoCo Climate Action
Submitting: Liz Feighner
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 26, 2025

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We are also a partner of the [Zero Waste Team](#) of [Howard County Sierra Club](#) and a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate. Reducing the production of plastics and creating a zero-waste economy is one of our top concerns. [Indivisible Howard County](#) represents 800+ members and is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). [HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Our organizations support **HB1092** which will ban in Maryland, facilities that use equipment to chemically convert plastics into byproducts. “Chemical recycling” or “advanced recycling” generates hazardous air pollution and large amounts of hazardous waste and Maryland should ban this process to protect its residents from this harmful practice. This is not recycling but is actually an incineration process..

The benefit of recycling comes when you return materials into the production cycle, which reduces the demand for virgin resources. If you are taking plastic and burning it as fuel, it’s not feeding back into plastic production. And so, to keep making new plastic, you have to keep extracting fossil fuel. A recent U.S. Department of Energy study found that pyrolysis and gasification had very low yields, with only 0.1% to 14% of the inputs turned into outputs that are suitable for reuse as plastic. An analysis conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council shows that most of the eight so-called “chemical recycling” facilities in the US are not actually recycling any plastic.

“Chemical recycling” generates hazardous air pollution and large amounts of hazardous waste. As noted in a July, 2022 letter signed by 35 members of Congress, “Chemical recycling facilities emit highly toxic chemicals, including benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, and dioxins, many of which are linked to cancer, nervous system damage, and negative effects on reproduction and development.”

The plastic industry is trying to convince the public that they can clean up the plastic pollution crisis with this technology. Chemical recycling further aggravates climate change by perpetuating continued extraction of fossil fuel for plastic production.

We urge a **favorable report for HB1092**.

Submitted by Liz Feighner

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