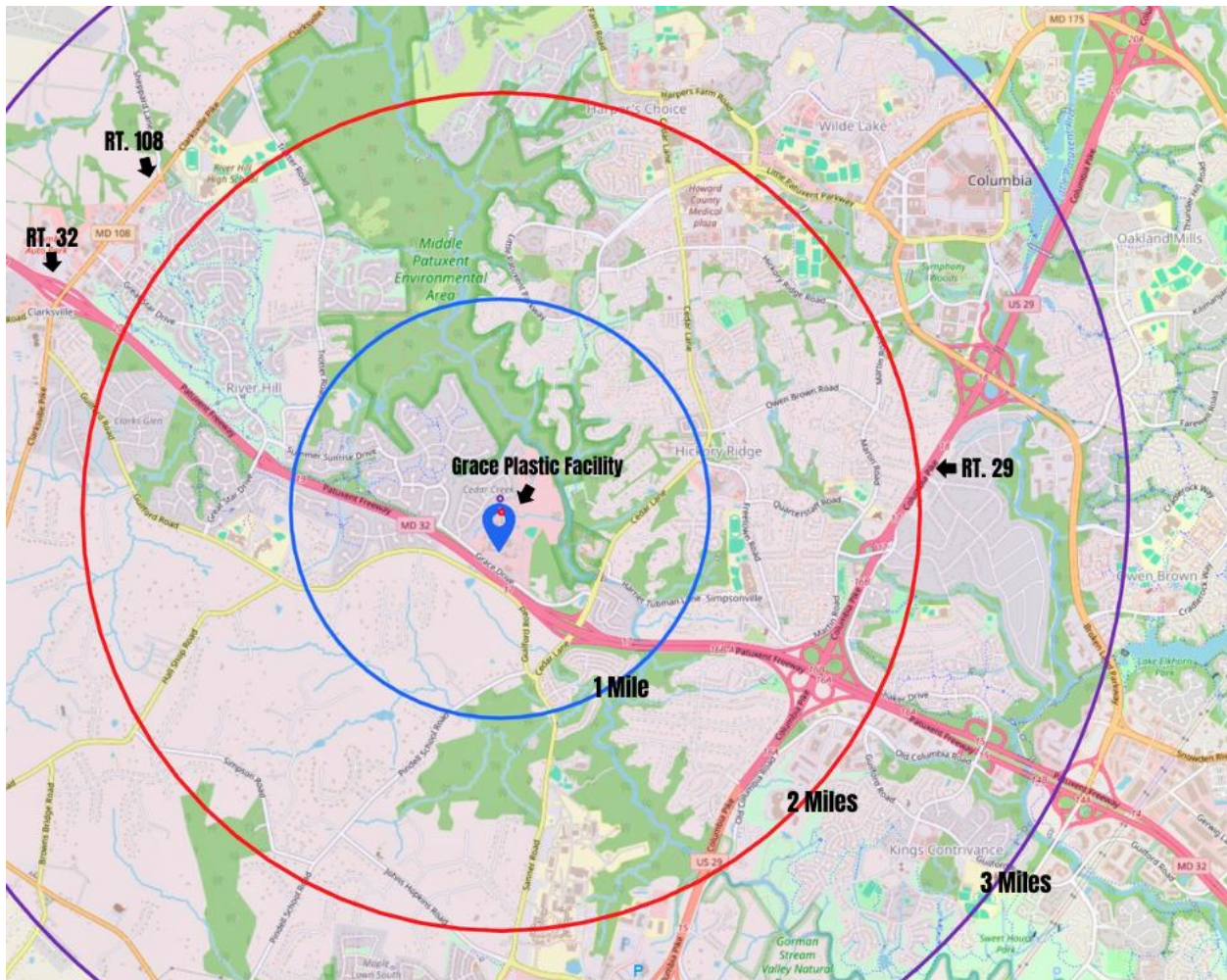


## Testimony of Lisa Krausz

### In Support of HB 796 - Recycling - Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic

My name is Lisa Krausz. I am a resident of River Hill Village in Clarksville, Maryland. Currently, I am serving as the co-facilitator of the Stop Grace Coalition ([stopgraceplasticpermit.my.canva.site](http://stopgraceplasticpermit.my.canva.site)). Our grassroots group is working to protect Howard County's clean air from the polluting impacts of "chemical recycling" (or the process of heating plastics up to high temperatures - which is defined as incineration by the EPA). I am urging a favorable report from the Committee concerning HB 796 and here is why.

Right now, Howard County residents are facing a fight to stop chemical recycling from moving forward in their community. The Stop Grace Coalition has over 1500 petition signers opposing a soon-to-be-operational plastic pyrolysis pilot facility in their community. Please see the map below which shows the location of the pilot project - which will be located less than a football field away from homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood, a truly diverse community with countless families and school children living there.



Our society has a plastics problem, there is no doubt, however, “chemical recycling” is NOT the answer to our plastics problem. Why? For several reasons:\*

- Heating plastics up to high temperatures to chemically convert them is a highly polluting process that produces toxic chemicals which jeopardize public and environmental health
- This technology creates a whole new stream of hazardous waste that must be properly managed
- Evidence shows that only a very small percentage of plastics are actually “recycled” from this process
- Even then, what is produced is problematic because of its own toxic properties whether hazardous fuels or the small percentage of low grade plastic that is sometimes produced (which represents only a fraction of the original plastic input)
- This technology does not produce a “circular economy” for plastic use and consumption
- Instead it encourages even greater production of single use plastics
- It creates a misleading sense of progress on our plastic problems
- In reality, these processes contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming
- These technologies are a carbon intensive process that provide no real advantages for managing plastic waste
- In fact, they instead pose significant health and environmental risks for Maryland residents and our environment

We urge Maryland legislators to forgo the hype surrounding the promises of chemical recycling. This purported “solution” offers no solution at all and instead provides a rationalization for continuing our plastic consumption at untenable rates.

The reality is that this technology will introduce highly toxic waste pollution into our communities and environment. At a time when we need to be curbing toxic pollution as well as the impacts of greenhouse gases on our environment, health, and climate, embracing chemical recycling in Maryland takes us in the wrong direction.

We urge Maryland legislators to ban this practice in Maryland and issue a favorable report for HB 796.

Thank you.

### **Resources**

#### **Webinar: Trash Talk - What Is Chemical Recycling**

<https://youtu.be/KctKpEbL2p8?si=wE0Ux6GTod378DT4>

The Stop Grace Coalition partnered with Clean Water Action in presenting **Trash Talk: What Is Chemical Recycling?** on September 18th at 7:00 p.m. You can watch this brief presentation to do a deeper dive in understanding this technology and what it means for you and your community.

**The Problem with Plastic** by Judith Enck and Adam Mahoney (2025) The New Press. Chapter 6: False Solutions, pp. 94-100.