

February 23, 2026

Subject: Written Testimony in Favor of HB0796 - Recycling - Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic

To: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB0796 - Recycling - Prohibition on the Chemical Conversion of Plastic.

As we continue to see the substantial impacts of climate change, it is critical that the General Assembly takes action to stop chemical recycling processes from coming to our state. Allowing this infrastructure to take hold here would be devastating for our climate, would endanger public health (especially in nearby communities), and will set us back in our fight against plastic pollution and fossil fuel use.

Maryland has set ambitious goals to fight climate change, including renewable energy commitments, banning fracking, and reducing our single-use plastic use through a ban on polystyrene foam. These are significant accomplishments that benefit the state's environment.

Chemical recycling would be a huge step back from this progress. Chemical recycling releases toxic chemicals into the environment, has a large carbon footprint, and does **not** recycle plastic into a beneficial and healthy alternative use. Mostly, it amounts to another form of burning fossil fuels and is an obstacle to reducing plastic use in society. Chemical recycling would be extremely detrimental to Maryland's environment.

I urge a favorable vote on HB0796 to prohibit chemical conversion of plastic in Maryland. A favorable vote will support climate change resilience and a more sustainable future for our state.

Sincerely,

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