

I already submitted testimony on SB 582, but I just heard a statement during the March 2 hearing by Senator Robinson that is misleading. He said that plastics can go three routes (recycle, landfill, or incinerate) that basically end up with the same outcome except that incinerating it can also produce electricity that can be profitable. He said all three routes eventually result in carbon dioxide as recycled plastic eventually becomes unusable and is also discarded. Plastics that go to a landfill essentially sequesters the carbon for centuries. Incineration immediately produces greenhouse gases that speed climate change and in the case of some plastics also produces dioxins and other toxins that are released into the atmosphere and become a significant threat to public health. Thus, there are very significant reasons to NOT incinerate plastics and turn to other sources of electricity, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, to provide power without threatening our health and climate. Reduction of plastics production should be the first choice whenever possible, reuse and recycling should be done for as long as the material is usable. After that, sequestering the material in a landfill is a final resort. Incineration should NEVER be a choice that is selected because it inherently threatens our health and our climate, regardless of the possible production of electricity that could instead be obtained from nonpolluting sources.