

## **Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2960**

The Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

### **There is not a single solution to the plastic waste problem. Reduce Reuse Recycle!**

Plastics used in everyone's daily life are not only the bags and packaging (direct contact to consumer) that carry our groceries or wrap our online orders.

**Agriculture that provides our food uses millions of pounds of plastic in the state of Oregon.** This plastic in the form of nursery pots, greenhouse films, drip tape/tube, totes, drums, mulch films, and others has become necessary to conserve water resources and prevent devastating crop disease and increase yields to feed an ever-expanding population. **Plastics in Agriculture have a high rate of contamination.**

The same holds true for many industries that use bulk commodities for the manufacture of their products. **High contamination prevents traditional mechanical recycling,** in most cases the cost to process these plastics exceeds the revenue available in the mechanical recycling market.

According to a report Published by the **Closed Loop Foundation**, part of Closed Loop Partners, **One of the largest private recycling and circular economy services providers in the U.S. States:**

**Plastic is one of the world's most ubiquitous and diverse material classes. To successfully build a circular system for plastics, we must take a multi-pronged approach.**

Molecular recycling technologies represent just one solution within the full arsenal of waste mitigation strategies, including reduction, reuse and refill systems, and mechanical recycling, among others.

Molecular recycling, sometimes known as "advanced" or "chemical" recycling, is a diverse sector that encompasses dozens of technologies that use solvents, heat, enzymes and even sound waves to purify or break down plastic waste to its original building blocks.

**These technologies, collectively, can expand the scope of materials we can recycle,** tackling a wide range of contaminated plastic waste and bridging the gap between the supply and demand for high-quality recycled plastics. Under the right conditions, molecular recycling has the potential to support downstream material recovery, and stakeholders must be diligent in analyzing the nuances of the risk-reward profile of each.

To ban chemical recycling as an option for plastics recycling is a closed-minded approach to the plastics recycling solution. Solving a complex distributed plastic problem does not include banning a solution, solving the complex distributed plastic problem requires all sound and proven technologies.

**Real, smart solutions** like mechanical, advanced or reuse recycling are the methods to gain an upper hand in solving the plastic waste dilemma.

Thank you for your support

Thomas Sprague