

Submitter: Cynthia Byrnes
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2960

March 20, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment:

I am writing in opposition to HB 2960, a bill that would ban a potential method for recycling plastics.

We all know the dangers that plastics pose for human health and the environment. Proponents of this bill urge the Oregon legislature to support only mechanical recycling processes and foreclose a potential alternative method of chemical recycling. At the most basic level plastics are chemicals. Doesn't it make sense to continue to explore ways to extract or change the chemicals in plastics to other forms or types that may be reused?

A chemical recycling of these materials is a move towards the type of circular economy, based on recycling, that will benefit us all in the long run. But it will not happen overnight or without trial and error. It makes no sense to stop any possibility of further developing and perfecting all types of recycling technology in Oregon. It is unrealistic to think that plastics will be eliminated on a large scale from public use any time in the near future. Even if plastics are eliminated from consumer products there are many medical and other uses of plastic that have no feasible alternative material at this time. I hope that given this reality, the Oregon legislature will support all potential methods of recycling and not limit Oregon to only mechanical recycling. That seems a very short-sighted approach to the problem. Please vote no on HB 2960 and do not pass it out of your committee.

Cynthia Byrnes
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