



March 19, 2025

RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 2960

Dear Chair Lively and Committee Members,

On behalf of our organizations and our supporters throughout Oregon, we would like to express our strong support of HB 2960, which will protect human and environmental health by prohibiting the establishment or operation of harmful plastic conversion facilities in the state.

Plastic conversion technologies, such as pyrolysis and gasification, sometimes called “chemical” or “advanced” recycling, are often presented as solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis and the low and stagnant recycling rate for plastics. However, these technologies are not the answer. They are energy-intensive, release harmful toxic pollution, and fail to address the root cause of plastic pollution: the overproduction and reliance on single-use plastics. These technologies do not recover plastics like traditional mechanical recycling, which in turn perpetuates our reliance on fossil fuel-based virgin plastic, putting our environment and communities at risk.

These technologies rely on high heat and pressure to break the chemical bonds in plastics, turning plastics into crude oil, syngas, or other forms of fossil fuels, releasing significant greenhouse gas emissions and harmful chemicals in the process.¹ Pyrolysis and gasification, the two main technologies used at scale today, release 30-200 times more greenhouse gas

¹ Rollinson, A., et al. (2020). “[Chemical Recycling Status, Sustainability, and Environmental Impacts](#).” Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

emissions than mechanical recycling.² Of the limited number of facilities currently operating in the U.S., the majority are sited in low income communities or communities of color.³

Oregon has already dealt with the challenges of plastic conversion technologies. Agilyx, a company that operated a plastic conversion facility in Oregon, closed in 2024 and it was reported the venture lost over \$4.5 million since 2021.⁴ Over 20 states have enacted industry-led legislation to reclassify these types of harmful technologies as “manufacturing” instead of solid waste management, exempting them from certain regulations and permitting requirements, and leaving surrounding communities at risk.

HB 2960 recognizes that Oregon cannot rely on these harmful technologies to tackle plastic pollution. By prohibiting plastic conversion facilities, this legislation ensures that our state’s focus remains on real, sustainable strategies like reducing single-use plastics, investing in reusable alternatives, and improving recycling systems. Importantly, the bill also prevents public funds from being used to support these harmful technologies, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are directed toward truly beneficial environmental initiatives.

HB 2960 is a critical step to protecting Oregonians from the economic and environmental risk of harmful plastic conversion technologies. We respectfully urge an AYE vote when this bill is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

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² Uekert, T., et al. (2023). [ASC Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering](#).

³ NRDC. (2022). “[Recycling Lies](#).”

⁴ Seal, B. “[Latest chemical recycling plant closing spurs concern over the industry’s viability](#).” (April 8, 2024). Environmental Health News.

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