

Submitter: Brian Ettl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2960

My name is Brian Ettl.

I'm a member of Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter who cares about climate solutions, climate justice, the health of our environment, having a healthy world for your children and future generations.

For 25 years, I was a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park. I loved this job working at one of the most scenic spots in Oregon and an international treasure. Unfortunately, I saw climate change while working at Crater Lake with the average annual snowpack diminishing. Even worse, I saw the summer fire season getting worse with visitors having to cancel their vacations due to the health hazard of smoke from the wildfires. Since moving to Portland in 2017, I have noticed the summers getting hotter to the point that my wife and I had to buy a heat pump two years ago to stay cooler. At times, I also was deeply alarmed by the smoke from the wildfires and the 2021 heat dome with temperatures in Portland reaching an unheard of 116 degrees. Scientists tells us that climate change is causing more extreme weather and making these events event more dangerous and deadly. Thus, we must take all the serious and effective actions that we can to reduce the threat of climate change.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you to support HB 2960 which will protect human and environmental health by prohibiting the establishment or operation of harmful plastic conversion facilities in the state. I applaud Chief Sponsor Rep. Mark Gamba and sponsor Senator Khanh Pham for their work to create this big and for being environmental and climate champions in the Oregon Legislature.

Plastic conversion technologies such as pyrolysis and gasification are both polluting and energy intensive– they pretend to be solutions while likely reinforcing rather than diminishing our reliance on fossil fuels. We must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to reduce the chances of even more extreme climate change.

Please protect Oregonians health and futures. Please support and pass HB 2960.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.