

THE STORY OF
STUFF
PROJECT

March 20, 2025

Chair Lively and Committee Members
House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St NE, H-479
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted via online portal

Re: Story of Stuff support for HB 2960 (Gamba)

Honorable Chair Lively and Committee Members:

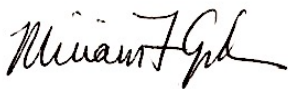
On behalf of the Story of Stuff Project and our nearly one thousand Oregon supporters, I would like to express our strong support for HB 2960 and thank Representative Gamba for leadership on this important issue. In the midst of a plastics and climate crisis, conversion technologies are the last waste management approach to choose. As published in a peer-reviewed journal, pyrolysis and gasification, the two main technologies used at scale today, release 30-200 times more greenhouse gas emissions than mechanical recycling.¹ These facilities perpetuate environmental injustice since they are largely located in low income communities or communities of color.

Rather than reduce our ability to decarbonize and detoxify packaging and single-use products, they amplify our reliance on petrochemicals. Just to use one example, with mechanical recycling, 55-85% of plastic waste gets recycled. Pyrolysis achieves 5-10%, but this is a bunch of smoke and mirrors, as it's the naphtha used to run the system that, according to ProPublica, gets counted as the recycled content, not the plastic product that is being processed.² The process outputs toxic chemicals and perpetuates reliance on fossil fuels. Conversion technologies rely on high heat and pressure to break the chemical bonds in plastics and turn them into crude oil, syngas, and other forms of fossil fuels. They do not result in less virgin plastic being used in products and they have consistently been a losing financial proposition for taxpayers.

These facilities are like monsters that need to be continually fed plastics. They perpetuate the reliance on single-use plastics. Very convenient for the plastics industry but not so for communities. Oregon should lift up reuse and reduce as the approach to single-use. Reusable beverage containers and reusable product packaging, and elimination of unnecessary products and packaging- these systems pave the way to solving plastic and the climate crisis.

We respectfully urge your aye vote.

Sincerely,



Miriam Gordon
Reuse Director
Story of Stuff
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¹ Uekert, T., et al. (2023). [ASC Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering](#).

² <https://www.propublica.org/article/delusion-advanced-chemical-plastic-recycling-pyrolysis>