



March 20th, 2025

Representative Lively, Chair  
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment  
Oregon Legislature

**Re: Environment Oregon & OSPIRG support House Bill 2960**

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to restore and protect the natural world. Our staff works for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate. OSPIRG is a statewide, public interest group.

We support House Bill 2960, which would prohibit the establishment or operation of a plastic conversion or depolymerization facility in Oregon, and would prevent state investments in these technologies.

Plastic conversion or depolymerization technologies, sometimes referred to as "chemical recycling" or "advanced recycling," convert plastic waste into crude oil, syngas, or other forms of fossil fuels.

Here are some important things to know about so-called "chemical recycling":

1. **It doesn't recycle much:** Only 1% to 14% of the plastic material sent to "chemical recycling" plants is actually recycled into new products. Instead, plastic sent to "chemical recycling" facilities is [almost always](#) being burned for energy and fuel.
2. **Toxic byproducts can harm our health:** Plastic burned at "chemical recycling" facilities can release [96 different types of dangerous air pollutants](#) as well as hazardous solid and toxic waste, including some known carcinogens. The fuel that is produced from "chemical recycling" produces even more toxins when it's burned.
3. **It's contributing to climate change:** The fuel at "chemical recycling" plants comes from petroleum-based plastic. Producing and using this fuel creates [vast amounts](#) of planet-warming carbon dioxide.

4. **It is very energy intensive.** All forms of "chemical recycling" require [massive amounts of energy](#). This energy may come from non-renewable sources, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions, and even if it comes from renewable sources, is a huge waste of energy. More energy is needed to power the process than is produced by it, even if the product or by-products of the process are burned for energy, meaning that chemical recycling is [not, nor is ever likely to be, self-sustaining](#). This is true of both plastics-to-fuel and solvent-based processes.

Our organizations are very concerned with the impact that plastic pollution is having on the environment and human health. We've spent significant time and energy over the past few years working to engage Oregonians on this issue and advocate for solutions.

Chemical recycling is *not* a solution to plastic pollution— it is simply turning one kind of pollution into another. The process is extremely energy intensive, very expensive and just further entrenches us in the linear economy while doing nothing to stop the production of wasteful single-use plastics.

Oregon cannot rely on these harmful technologies to tackle the growing environmental and public health challenge of plastic pollution. By prohibiting these facilities, Oregon can remain focused on real solutions like reducing wasteful plastics, modernizing our recycling system and enabling reuse. Those are the steps we need to keep taking in order to address plastic pollution in our state and beyond.

We urge your support of House Bill 2960.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango  
Environment Oregon  
State Director

Charlie Fisher  
OSPIRG  
State Director