

March 21, 2025

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 2960, a crucial step in Oregon's journey towards a just and equitable transition away from destructive fossil fuels. Our state stands at a pivotal moment—one where we must decisively choose pathways aligned with our deepest values of environmental justice, public health, and community well-being.

The petrochemical industry's attempts to rebrand plastic conversion technologies as "recycling" are directly at odds with our state's climate and environmental commitments. These so-called "chemical recycling" methods, such as pyrolysis and gasification, reinforce our dangerous reliance on fossil fuels and perpetuate environmental harm, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities already burdened by pollution and health disparities.

HB 2960 represents Oregon's unwavering commitment to real, sustainable solutions—not industry "greenwashing." By prohibiting plastic conversion and depolymerization facilities, this legislation actively dismantles the false narrative that such technologies are beneficial or aligned with our state's climate goals. Instead, it opens the door for investments in genuinely renewable, equitable alternatives that prioritize people, environmental health, and community resilience.

Our vision for Oregon is clear: an economy where progress and prosperity are measured by the health of our communities and the environment, not by corporate profit. Passing HB 2960 affirms our collective resolve to lead the nation by example, fostering a truly sustainable future rooted in justice and responsibility.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's just transition.

Sincerely,

Kharh Phan

Khanh Pham State Senator, District 23