



March 29th 2023

Honorable David Bennett, Chair and Members of the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources, House of Representatives,

Honorable David Bennett, Chair, and

In re: Opposing H 5142/ S 131 relating to the High Heat Waste Facility Act of 2023

We the undersigned organizations representing industries and workers across Rhode Island respectfully request your opposition of H 5142/ S 131– High Heat Waste Facility Act of 2023. As currently written the bill includes several broad definitions that would unintentionally imperil Rhode Island’s ability to employ new advanced recycling technologies that recycle more types of post-use plastics.

Advanced recycling technologies enable plastics that currently do not have strong end markets (e.g. films, pouches and tubes) to be converted back to their basic chemical building blocks. These chemical building blocks can go back into new food grade plastics, useful chemicals, and other products like waxes, lubricants and ultra-low sulfur transportation fuels. Technologies such as pyrolysis and gasification heat plastics in an oxygen deprived environment and convert the plastics to liquid feedstocks that can be remanufactured into a versatile mix of new products for remanufacturing. Conversely, the purpose of solid waste incineration facilities is to destroy waste materials via combustion or burning.

Unfortunately, H 5142/S 131 seeks to define technologies that define pyrolysis and gasification and link these technologies to the destruction of waste materials. This contradicts legislation that has been adopted in 22 other states, most recently Michigan and Utah. **Advanced recycling is NOT combustion or burning.** Technologies such as pyrolysis and gasification heat plastics in an oxygen deprived environment and convert the plastics to liquid feedstocks that can be remanufactured into a versatile mix of new products.

From an environmental standpoint, the emissions for these facilities are low. A [recent report](#) found that advanced recycling facilities have emissions that are on par or lower than industrial facilities such as food manufacturing and community institutions such as hospitals and universities. These technologies do not produce pollutants like dioxins and are strictly regulated and monitored by federal, state, and local air emissions authorities.

In closing, we would like to reiterate the importance of distinguishing the conversion of everyday household plastic items and packaging via manufacturing processes such as pyrolysis and gasification from the destruction and disposal of hazardous, non-plastic waste. The processes which remanufacture plastics back into useful products should remain distinct from other processes that dispose of waste. We urge the committee to oppose H 5142/ S 131 to ensure

that Rhode Island's ability to recycle and recover more types of plastics be protected, while simultaneously ensuring state leaders can protect their communities from unwanted development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council

Berry Global

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Brightmark

Consumer Brands Association

Flexible Packaging Association

Plastic Energy

Plastics Industry Association

Printing United Alliance

Sealed Air