



June 14th 2023

In re: Opposing HB 768 – Plastic Bottle Recycling

Dear Senate Chair Rausch, House Chair Cahill and Members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

We the undersigned organizations representing industries and workers across Massachusetts respectfully request your opposition of HB 768 – Plastic Bottle Recycling. As currently written, the bill excludes advanced recycling from the definition of recycling.

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, HB 768 excludes advanced recycling from the definition of recycling (does not include: (iii) the conversion of waste into alternative products, such as chemicals, feedstocks, fuels, and energy, through incineration, pyrolysis, methanolysis, gasification, solvolysis, , molecular or advanced recycling, or a similar technology determined by the Agency.

This contradicts legislation that has been adopted in 24 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.

We urge the committee to oppose HB 768 to ensure that Massachusetts ability to recycle and recover more types of plastics be protected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council

American Fuels & Petrochemical Manufacturers

Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Berry Global

Braven Environmental

Brightmark

Consumer Brands Association

Flexible Packaging Association

Plastic Energy

Plastics Industry Association

Printing United Alliance

Sealed Air

Vinyl Siding Institute