

OPPOSE SB1164 and HB2173

Advanced/Chemical Recycling; Definition- Changes the definition from waste management to manufacturing.

Senator Hanger: Delegate Plum

Reasons to oppose SB 1164 and HB 2173:

- The American Chemistry Council is trying to change Virginia's laws.
- Since 2017, the plastics and chemical industry, represented by the American Chemistry Council, has led an effort to make legislative changes to statewide policies in [13 states to promote chemical conversion](#).
- "Chemical recycling" or "advanced recycling" are fossil fuel industry terms for Chemical Conversion. A polluting and carbon intensive process that is riddled with system failures and will make the plastic and climate crisis worse. About 50% of the carbon content of waste plastics is typically lost as greenhouse gases during chemical conversion.
- These vague terms refer to an array of technologies (many of which remain in the lab or pilot phases). They encompass two general categories — plastic-to-fuel and plastic-to-plastic.
- 79% of waste to energy facilities (another term for plastic to fuel) are located in low-income and communities of color. These facilities expose residents to harmful particulates that cause cancer, respiratory illnesses, and neurological disorders.
- Chemical Conversion facilities release toxic chemicals including lead, arsenic, mercury, bisphenol-A, cadmium, benzene, brominated compounds, phthalates, tin, antimony, and volatile organic compounds.

Overview

This bill would enable harmful, polluting facilities to expand across Virginia with the most severe impacts placed on vulnerable populations. Chemical Conversion is not economically or environmentally sustainable and this bill is being used to kill HB1902 to ban EPS food and beverage containers. The solution to the plastic crisis is reducing waste at its source, not dangerous downstream approaches.



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