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March 18, 2025

The Honorable John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St NE, H-481
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: House Bill 2960 - Plastic Conversion and Depolymerization Facilities Ban: OPPOSE

Chair Lively and Committee Members:

The [Ag Container Recycling Council \(ACRC\)](http://agrecycling.org) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding House Bill 2960. ACRC can be reached for further follow-up as follows:

ACRC Contact Information:

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Who is the ACRC?

The Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit association that promotes and funds programs in the United States for the collection and recycling of plastic containers (up to and including 55 gallons) from agricultural pesticide, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer and adjuvant products. It also funds research for determining acceptable end uses for the plastic collected in the program. ACRC was founded in February 1992 by 11 manufacturers, formulators or packagers of such products. The ACRC was an instrumental resource in the development of the ANSI/ASABE S596 Standard, a standard specifying how to handle, clean and recycle pesticide containers. Today, the ACRC has [36 Regular Members and 18 Affiliate Member companies](#). Manufacturers, formulators or packagers of agricultural pesticide, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer and adjuvant products can be Regular Members. Any manufacturer of HDPE plastic containers or container components used by the companies that qualify for Regular Membership may be an Affiliate Member. ACRC is funded entirely by member dues. Since 1992, ACRC has collected and ACRC contractors have

successfully recycled, over 257,000,000 pounds of HDPE containers into carefully vetted end uses. Such end uses include products such as agricultural drain tile, underground electrical conduit, landscaping edging, and nursery pots. ACRC began collecting in Oregon in 1993, the first year of nationwide collection by the program. Since that time, ACRC has collected approximately 10,052,000 pounds of ag chemical containers in Oregon, which translates to approximately 12,565,000 empty rinsed containers.

ACRC Written Testimony regarding HB-2960:

I am writing on behalf of the ACRC to express our significant concerns regarding House Bill 2960, which seeks to prohibit plastic conversion and depolymerization facilities in the state of Oregon.

For over three decades, ACRC has been at the forefront of agricultural plastics recycling in Oregon, developing successful programs to manage difficult-to-recycle agricultural chemical containers. Our work represents a vital environmental stewardship initiative within the agricultural sector, diverting thousands of tons of agricultural plastics from landfills and preventing improper disposal.

ACRC has maintained a long-standing and productive partnership with Agri-Plas Inc., our contracted service provider, based in Brooks, Oregon. Together, we have built a reliable collection, processing, and recycling infrastructure that farmers and agricultural businesses across the state depend upon for responsible end-of-life management of their plastic materials. This successful partnership has made Oregon a model for agricultural plastics recycling. Beyond the ACRC program, Agri-Plas also collects and recycles many other difficult to recycle agricultural plastics including mulch film, silage wrap, twine, pots, and trays.

Our organization's dedication to environmental responsibility is further recognized by our formal inclusion in the Department of Environmental Quality's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, ORS 459A.860 to 459A.975, passed in 2021 as Senate Bill 582. ACRC is specifically written into the rulemaking framework as an established stewardship organization with a proven track record of success in managing specialized plastic waste streams.

We wish to emphasize that advanced recycling technologies, including chemical recycling processes that would be prohibited under HB 2960, are critical complementary approaches to mechanical recycling and provide responsible end of life management for difficult to recycle plastics. Agricultural plastics present unique challenges for traditional mechanical recycling due to contamination with soil, agricultural chemicals, and weathering from field exposure. Chemical recycling offers one of the few viable pathways to recover value from these materials when mechanical recycling is not feasible.

Prohibiting these technologies would have serious unintended consequences:

1. Increased landfill disposal of agricultural plastics that could otherwise be recycled.
2. Potential reversion to problematic disposal practices such as open burning, which creates significant air pollution and health hazards.
3. Undermining of existing collection infrastructure that programs like ACRC have established.
4. Creation of a technological dead-end for materials innovation in the agricultural sector

We strongly believe that Oregon's environmental policies should embrace a diverse toolkit of solutions for difficult waste streams. By prohibiting an entire category of recycling technology, HB 2960 would eliminate promising pathways for materials that currently have limited end-of-life options.

ACRC is committed to continuing our work with Oregon's agricultural community, DEQ, and other stakeholders to ensure environmentally sound management of agricultural plastics. We respectfully request that the committee reconsider the broad prohibition on chemical recycling technologies proposed in HB 2960, and instead work with industry partners to develop appropriate standards and oversight for these important complementary recycling pathways.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Hudson

J. Mark Hudson
Executive Director, ACRC

Allen Jongsma

Allen Jongsma
Owner, Agri-Plas Inc.