

Submitter: Helena Birecki  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2960

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee Members,

My name is Helena Birecki and I am writing in support of HB 2960 which will protect human and environmental health by prohibiting the establishment or operation of harmful plastic conversion facilities in the state.

As the interim Chair of Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter, a continuing student of environmental science, and a Pilates teacher, I am passionate about Just Solutions to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis because they are prerequisites for both a livable and lovable future. Just climate solutions are not numbers on a page-- they are real life clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems across communities.

While plastic conversion, sometimes called "chemical recycling," is sometimes presented as a solution to the plastics pollution problem, it more accurately is a process that uses large amounts of energy to split apart visible plastics into oils or gases plus invisible toxins that get released into our air. Most plastic conversion facilities (like most polluting industry in general) add to environmental injustice because their location near low income communities and communities of color subjects those communities to the worst impacts of the facilities' pollution.

To protect Oregonians health and futures, please support HB 2960.

For more detailed information and references, please see the organizational support coalition testimony submitted by OCEANA at <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/161764>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Helena Birecki  
Portland, OR