

Environment Council of Rhode Island testimony in support of H7357

Peter Trafton, MD Providence Rhode Island, Policy Co-VP, ECRI

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island, our many member organizations and individual members, I write to convey our strongest support for Representative McGaw's H7357, the High Heat Facility Act of 2024.

This bill will prevent the nearly annual attempts of the petrochemical industries to win yet another state over to so-called "plastic recycling". Various names and variously described technologies are presented as "manufacturing" rather than waste disposal, incineration, and non-recycling efforts to dispose of the ever-increasing plastic wastes. Numerous studies have demonstrated that they have failed to result in plastic recycling, that they have led to toxic air pollution and related public health threats.

You will remember that two years ago such a bill was passed by the Rhode Island Senate and the staunch resistance of our House of Representatives blocked its further progress. We thank you for that, and to warn you that the plastics industries are still hoping to set up shop in Rhode Island.

A Senate study commission met briefly in 2020, and failed to reach any conclusion. I refer you to Kevin Budris, Esq.'s presentation:

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/gasification/commdocs/Senate%20Gasification%20Study%20Com'n%20CLF%20presentation%203.11.20.pdf>.

A very recent report by the Center for Climate Integrity provides further information. It is available at <https://climateintegrity.org/plastics-fraud> .

Rhode Island does not need to tread the path of other states that have fallen prey to plastic incineration schemes. Please pass Representative McGaw's bill and move it on to the full house.

Thank you very much for considering our request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton