

**Testimony in support of House Bill 7620, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, February 26, 2026, by Peter Trafton, Providence, Rhode Island**

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

The lobbyists are hanging around in their dens, hoping H7620 will not pass. Year after year they return to Rhode Island seeking finally to gain approval for so-called advanced recycling. They are supported by the plastics industries and big oil, and have “legalized” such thermal, mechanical, and chemical efforts to turn used plastic into commercial products. Last August, the Environmental Defense Fund summarized a report:

**What’s the problem with so-called “advanced recycling?”** Although industry touts “advanced recycling” as a solution to the plastic waste crisis, the process has major flaws. Not only does it fail to recycle anything, but it also rarely results in new plastic products. To make matters worse, the oils it produces are so toxic that [their use is highly limited](#). Continued investments in “advanced recycling” will lock us into burning more polluting fossil fuels that contribute to climate change. Instead of spending its resources propping up this [toxic scam](#), industry could devote them to developing truly innovative and safe solutions.

<https://blogs.edf.org/health/2025/08/04/advanced-recycling-is-a-toxic-scam-now-the-epa-is-turning-a-blind-eye-to-some-of-the-most-toxic-chemicals-it-produces/>

Over the last few years, approximately 25 US states have passed laws permitting forms of “advanced recycling” and the corporations have tried to do so here as well. We have legislation banning it for medical plastics. We should pass Rep. McGaw’s 7620 along with Sen. Ujifusa’s 2531, the combination of which will hopefully keep this toxic scam away from Rhode Island.

Thanks for considering my input.

Respectfully,



Peter Trafton