

# PKS Consulting, Inc.

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March 14, 2024

Re: Testimony, House Bill 143

Chair and members of the committee,

Good morning, and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Patrick Simpson, and I represent Alaska Plastic Recovery, a company dedicated to transforming plastic waste into recycled plastic lumber, which we proudly call Grizzly Wood. Our product is a testament to the power of innovation in recycling, turning high-density polyethylene, low-density polyethylene, and polypropylene into durable, environmentally friendly construction materials. This process not only gives plastic waste a new life but also prevents it from ending up in our landfills.

I am here to express our strong support for House Bill 143, which recently passed the House of Representatives. This bill is a crucial step forward in promoting advanced recycling technologies in Alaska. By properly addressing advanced recycling facilities in statute, HB 143 opens the door for companies like ours to innovate and expand, turning more plastic waste into valuable resources. The importance of this bill cannot be overstated. Less than 10% of plastic waste is currently recycled into new products globally. Advanced recycling facilities, like the ones HB 143 seeks to support, have the potential to significantly increase this percentage. These facilities use high heat or chemicals to break down plastic garbage into raw materials, which can then be used to create new plastic products. This process is key to reducing the amount of plastic waste that ends up in our environment.

However, we understand that there are environmental concerns associated with advanced recycling, including potential chemical pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. We believe that with proper regulation and oversight, these challenges can be addressed effectively like any other manufacturing facility. Our company is committed to sustainable practices and is ready to work with lawmakers, environmental groups, and the community to ensure that advanced recycling contributes positively to Alaska's environmental goals.

Supporting HB 143 is not just about promoting recycling; it's about taking a bold step towards a more sustainable and economically vibrant future for Alaska. By fostering an environment where advanced recycling can thrive, we can create new jobs, stimulate economic growth, and position Alaska as a leader in innovative recycling technologies.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support the passage of HB 143. Alaska Plastic Recovery, along with other stakeholders in the recycling industry, is ready to support this bill's implementation and address any concerns that may arise. Together, we can make Alaska a model for sustainable waste management and environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patrick Simpson  
Managing Member

**From:** [Therese Lewandowski](#)  
**To:** [Senate Resources](#)  
**Subject:** HB 143, Advanced Recycling  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:11:36 PM

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Resource Committee Members,

HB 143, which you will hear this Friday, March 15, relates to establishing regulations for an advanced recycling facility.

It is my understanding **advanced recycling refers to either the burning of plastics or use of chemicals to process them.**

Its subtitle states it **relates to waste**. Yet, according to an article in the Alaska Beacon, it would **classify such a facility under "manufacturer" instead of a "waste facility"** which would reduce the environmental standards that need to be met in a waste facility.

Surely the burning of, or chemically altering of, plastics will produce a plethora of environmental hazards that need to be addressed.

The sponsor of this bill says that the possibility of such a plant is unlikely or way in the future. Why introduce this now then?

I oppose this bill. It needs to, at a minimum, inform the people what harm to the environment and to people and animals, such a recycling plant would cause.

Respectfully,  
Therese Lewandowski  
District C - 6



March 14, 2024

To: The Honorable Click Bishop, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Co-Chair  
Members, Senate Resources Committee

From: Lindsay Stovall  
Director, State and Regulatory Affairs

**RE: HB 143 (Advanced Recycling) – SUPPORT**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association representing almost 200 global companies engaged in the chemical industry including leading manufacturers of plastic resins. The ACC appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of HB 143, which would appropriately regulate advanced recycling facilities as manufacturing facilities.

Increasing sustainability and reducing plastic waste are extremely important for our communities. This includes enabling innovation to drive recycling rates upward. To date, Alaska and much of the United States have been able to mechanically recycle things like soda and water bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles and some tubs and lids. However, it is challenging to mechanically recycle complexly engineered packaging such as food pouches, snack wrappers, and other complex packaging materials. Additionally, economics, market demand, and recent restrictions from China have had a major impact.

This is where innovation comes in. Instead of sending these valuable plastics to landfills or burning them for energy, technologies like advanced recycling (also commonly referred to as chemical recycling), can take these hard to recycle plastics and convert them into raw materials for new chemicals and plastics. These are truly circular, environmentally beneficial solutions that do not involve incineration or combustion but instead create recycled feedstock that can be used to make new packaging.

Here are some examples of how these technologies have been successfully implemented in the U.S.:

- Wendy's has switched from their paper-lined drink cups to an all-plastic cup made with 20% recycled plastics thanks to advanced recycling.<sup>1</sup>
- Herbal Essences – one of the highest profile brands of Procter & Gamble, is producing five shampoo and conditioner bottles made from 50% certified recycled plastic.<sup>2</sup>
- Warby Parker is bringing recycled materials to the eyewear industry via advanced recycling technologies.<sup>3</sup>

Bear in mind, advanced recycling facilities would be subject to federal, state, and local environmental regulations including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. It is also important to note, ***twenty-four other states have passed similar laws to ensure that these technologies are regulated as manufacturing.***

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berryglobal.com/en/sustainability/supporting-customer-goals/wendys-partnership>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eastman.com/en/media-center/news-stories/2021/herbal-essences-new-packaging-eastman-renew>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eastman.com/en/media-center/news-stories/2022/warby-parker-molecular-recycling-program>



If Alaska converted just 50% of the currently landfilled plastic feedstock in the state, it ***could generate over \$70 million in total economic output each year and up to 250 manufacturing jobs***. It is critical for advanced recycling companies looking to invest in this state that their technology will be properly regulated as manufacturing and that the products they produce count as recycling and towards future recycled content targets. HB 143 accomplishes these objectives and paves the way to bring added investments and jobs to the state of Alaska, while increasing recycling, conserving resources, and reducing plastic waste.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at [Lindsay\\_Stovall@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Lindsay_Stovall@americanchemistry.com).