

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Session: January – April

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Official Business

House Bill 143

Advanced Recycling

SPONSOR STATEMENT

In today's world, there is a heavy push for low greenhouse gas (GHG) processes for energy, fuel, and petroleum related products. However, many of the options available to us are not economical without heavy government subsidies or they simply don't work on a commercial scale.

Advanced recycling is a process that defies those trends while also decreasing the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills and in the environment as pollution. HB 143 puts into place a regulatory framework that would allow Alaska to participate in the advanced recycling industry which would create jobs, revenue, and economic activity for the state.

Roughly 90% of plastics that are recycled or sorted at landfills are not suitable for traditional (mechanical) recycling. Through chemical processes such as pyrolysis and gasification, advanced recycling offers a way to solve this issue by taking plastics which cannot be recycled via traditional methods and converting them into new, high value plastics, chemicals, and other products.

Twenty-three other states have passed legislation similar to HB 143 in bipartisan fashion. I encourage you to support this legislation which encourages technological innovation, could create new manufacturing jobs, and promotes low GHG products in an economically viable manner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom W. McKay".