

## **Kansas SB 114 – Oral Proponent Testimony**

### **Marcus Branstad, American Chemistry Council**

Good morning, Chairman Tarwater, and Members of the Committee. My name is Marcus Branstad and I am here today on behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC). The ACC is a national trade association representing almost 200 global companies representing chemical industry including leading manufacturers of plastic resins. Today I am here today to discuss Senate Bill 114 which appropriately regulates advanced recycling as manufacturing.

Increasing sustainability and driving towards a more circular economy are extremely important for our industry. This includes enabling innovation to drive recycling rates upward. To date, Kansas 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, films, and tubes. 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 can take these harder to recycle plastics and convert them into raw materials for new chemicals and plastics. These are truly circular, environmentally friendly solutions that do not combust or burn the plastic material.

Here are some examples of how these technologies have already been implemented in the US:

- Wendy's announced that they were switching from their paper-lined drink cups to an all-plastic cup made with 20% certified recycled plastics thanks to advanced recycling. This cup is manufactured by Berry Plastics one of the leading plastics manufacturers in the country.
- Herbal Essences – one of the highest profile brands of Procter & Gamble has announced a partnership with Eastman to produce five shampoo and conditioner bottles made from 50% certified recycled plastic. And,
- A new line of Nalgene water bottles has been made using advanced recycling by Eastman Chemical based in Kingsport, Tennessee.

If Kansas became a hub for advanced recycling technologies and converted just 50% of the currently landfilled plastic feedstock in the state, it could generate nearly \$150 million in total economic output, 550 jobs, and \$37 Million in payroll.

Lastly, as manufacturing facilities, these technologies are also subject to all applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and required permits for manufacturers from Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 21 other states, including border state Missouri have enacted very similar laws to ensure that these technologies are regulated as manufacturing. Other midwestern states to pass this legislation include: Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Thus, I ask for your support of SB 114 to help bring added investments and jobs to the state of Kansas, while increasing recycling, conserving resources, and reducing plastic waste. With that, Mister Chair, I thank you for your time today and pleased to respond to questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you.