

News Release

For Immediate Release

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ACC, SPI ALIGN AND EXPAND EFFORTS TO DEFEND PLASTIC BAGS AND INCREASE PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING

*Progressive Bag Affiliates to Transition to SPI in 2012 to Take Strategic Advantage of
National Grassroots Network*

WASHINGTON, DC (December 15, 2011) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) and SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association (SPI) today announced an evolution in how the industry will defend plastic bags and promote the recycling of all plastic film – a category that includes plastic bags, product wraps and commercial packaging such as shrink wrap.

As efforts to ban or tax plastic bags become increasingly local, the Progressive Bag Affiliates (PBA), which includes America's largest manufacturers of plastic bags, will transition from ACC to SPI. This move will become effective, January 1, 2012 and will allow PBA to leverage SPI's national grassroots network. Upon completion of the transition, the group will be named the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA).

SPI's current alignment of Councils and Committees shares a strong "resin-to-product" focus with the PBA, concentrating on issues of concern to manufacturers that produce end market goods for consumers and retailers. One such SPI group, the Flexible Film and Bag Division, represents the full scope of the plastic film sector (including bags, wraps and liners) and will enjoy obvious synergies with the PBA.

At the same time, ACC will introduce a new Flexible Film Recycling Group comprised of resin suppliers, converters, brand owners and other value chain partners who use and/or recover flexible film packaging. Through SPI, the PBA will continue to support expanded recycling efforts for plastic film as a member of ACC's Flexible Film Recycling Group.

Together, these changes are expected to result in additional resources that will benefit this important sector of our industry.

"We are excited to welcome PBA into the SPI family," said William R. Cardeaux, president and CEO of SPI. "This sector of our industry continues to face extraordinary challenges, predominantly at the local level – exactly where the SPI grassroots network can make an impact. By aligning our approaches, SPI and ACC can better marshal and utilize our collective resources to defend this important sector and promote film recycling."

"Thanks in part to ACC's and PBA's efforts to date and the growing number of at-store collection points for plastic film – now numbering over 12,000 – opportunities to grow plastics film recycling have never been better," said Steve Russell, vice president of plastics for the American Chemistry

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Council. “ACC’s new Flexible Film Recycling Group will focus on raising recycling rates for plastic film by overcoming barriers and strengthening partnerships throughout the value chain.”

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<http://www.plasticsindustry.org/>

Founded in 1937, SPI is the plastics industry trade association representing the third largest manufacturing industry in the United States. SPI's member companies represent the entire plastics industry supply chain, including processors, machinery and equipment manufacturers and raw materials suppliers. The U.S. plastics industry employs nearly 1 million workers and provides \$341 billion in annual shipments.

<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.