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**For Immediate Release**

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## **CALIFORNIA SENATE IGNORES WORLDWIDE BODY OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND VOTES TO LIMIT CONSUMER CHOICE**

*The following statement can be attributed to the American Chemistry Council (ACC):*

ARLINGTON, VA (June 2, 2009) – Today the California Senate voted to needlessly restrict consumer products deemed to be safe by scientific experts worldwide. Sadly, SB 797 is not based on science and will not improve public health.

Eleven regulatory bodies around the world have recently assessed the science on bisphenol A (BPA) and uniformly determined that BPA is safe for use in food contact products, including the products that would be banned by SB 797. Among others, these include the European Union, European Food Safety Authority, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, French Food Safety Authority, and the Swiss Office for Public Health.

In February, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated: “With regard to BPA generally, based on all available evidence, the consensus of regulatory agencies in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan is that the current levels of exposure to BPA through food packaging do not pose an immediate health risk to the general population, including infants and young children.”

By failing to consider the conclusions of these recent assessments, it is apparent that elected officials have bowed to pressure from vocal special interest groups. If this bill becomes law, it will do nothing to enhance product safety; it will, however, result in reduced product choice for consumers and needlessly more expensive food products.

Assessing chemical and product safety requires deep scientific expertise and rigorous analysis. For this reason, the same California Legislature last year adopted what may be the world’s most comprehensive chemical management regulatory program for consumer products. If there is a need for further scientific review of BPA in California, the open and transparent process under this “Green Chemistry” initiative will provide what is needed to protect the health of all Californians. Legislative end-runs around the scientific process are not the way to achieve this goal.

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*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<sup>®</sup>, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$689 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.*

