



Statement

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2009

Contact: Jennifer Killinger (703) 741-5833

Email: jennifer_killinger@americanchemistry.com

PHILADELPHIA REJECTS TAX AND BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

Bag Makers, Retailers to Continue Working to Increase Recycling

ARLINGTON, VA (June 18, 2009) – *Today the Philadelphia City Council voted to reject a proposed ban on plastic bags. In May, a move to tax both plastic and paper bags also failed to pass the City Council. The Progressive Bag Affiliates of the American Chemistry Council, an organization that represents the manufacturers and recyclers of plastic bags and plastic resins, welcomed the decision and issued the following statement.*

Today Philadelphia joined a growing number of cities and states that have looked at measures to reduce waste, prevent litter and improve the environment, and decided that taxes and bans are not the answer. We welcome the City Council's decision and look forward to continuing to work with local partners to increase recycling and reduce litter.

The proposed plastic bag ban met with broad-based opposition from retailers, local businesses and other community groups, who agree that plastics don't belong on our sidewalks or waterways – they belong in the recycle bin.

In 2007, more than 830 million pounds of plastic bags and wraps were recycled in the United States, marking a 27 percent increase over a two-year period. Recycled plastic bags and product wraps are used to make many useful products, including durable backyard decks, home building products and new bags, to name a few.

Recently, the nation's four leading makers of plastic carryout bags announced a landmark recycling goal of 40 percent recycled content, including 25 percent postconsumer material, in all plastic bags by 2015. When fully implemented, the **Full Circle Recycling Initiative** will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 463 million pounds, conserve enough energy (mainly natural gas) to heat 200,000 homes, and reduce waste by 300 million pounds every year.

About the Progressive Bag Affiliates

The Progressive Bag Affiliates of the American Chemistry Council promote the responsible use and recycling of plastic carryout bags. The PBA recycling toolkit is being used by retailers around the nation as a reference for determining the best ways to deploy effective recycling solutions in stores. For more information, please visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

###



www.americanchemistry.com/newsroom

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 \$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.

