



# News Release

For Immediate Release

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## ACC APPLAUDS FINAL PASSAGE OF THE “SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT” (S.1982)

WASHINGTON (December 1, 2020) – *U.S. Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) led the passage of the Save our Seas 2.0 Act (S.1982), a bipartisan bill building upon the important environmental safeguards made in the Save Our Seas Act, which was signed into law in 2018. The following statement may be attributed to Joshua Baca, vice president of ACC’s Plastics Division:*

“America’s plastic makers welcome final passage of the Save our Seas 2.0 Act ([S.1982](#)) and the bipartisan approach taken by Senators Sullivan, Whitehouse, and Menendez. We strongly support the legislation being signed into law.

“The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act supports scientists and agencies in researching innovative ways to repurpose used plastics, including for infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges, and development of a mass balance certification system for recycled content creating circular polymers.

“Additionally, the legislation creates a revolving fund to strengthen our domestic recycling infrastructure. Earlier this year, ACC signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Department of Energy to support innovations in plastics recycling and recovery technologies that strengthen domestic supply chains while improving economic and environmental outcomes. Across the U.S., there have been [64 announced projects in mechanical and advanced recycling](#) valued at \$5.3 billion. Together, these projects have the potential to divert more than 4.0 million metric tons (approximately 8.9 billion pounds) of waste from landfills each year.

“In 2018, the plastics industry set ambitious circular economy goals for making all plastic packaging in the United States recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and for all plastic packaging to be reused, recycled, or recovered by 2040. Charting a path to meet these goals, in October ACC released its [Roadmap to Reuse](#) and [Guiding Principles](#). Several of the crucial concepts to support recycling outlined in our Guiding Principles are also echoed in the Save Our Seas 2.0 legislation.

“Lastly, we look forward to continued engagement toward combatting marine debris worldwide. Plastic makers are dedicated to advancing global solutions to end plastic waste in our environment. In 2011, ACC helped lead the development of a [Global Declaration for Solutions on Marine Litter](#). Since then, [80 plastics associations in 39 countries have initiated or completed more than 395 projects](#) aimed at addressing marine debris around the globe.”

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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®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$565 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods 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.*

