ACC APPLAUDS WHITE HOUSE AND HOUSE DEMOCRATS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON USMCA

WASHINGTON (December 10, 2019) – The following statement may be attributed to American Chemistry Council (ACC) President and CEO, Chris Jahn, in response to Speaker Pelosi’s announcement that the White House and House Democrats have concluded talks on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA):

“ACC and our members are strongly encouraged by the Speaker’s announcement of a potential agreement that would codify important improvements to USMCA and possibly fast-track its passage in Congress. We commend Ambassador Lighthizer and Speaker Pelosi for their dogged pursuit of a trade agreement that will benefit U.S. businesses, workers, and consumers. ACC looks forward to reviewing the proposed changes closely to ensure chemicals manufacturers will continue to thrive under the new agreement.

“U.S. chemicals manufacturers can strengthen our competitiveness and win with countries like China when we are free to innovate across borders and take advantage of integrated supply chains with our two largest trading partners in Canada and Mexico. Under USMCA, the benefits of increased regulatory cooperation can also be deployed to prevent and reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers to trade while continuing to protect human health and the environment.

“We strongly urge both sides to build on the momentum of this announcement by swiftly finalizing implementing legislation that the House and Senate could vote on before the holiday recess.”

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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 $553 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.