



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ACC: VERMONT'S SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN COULD INCREASE WASTE, ENERGY USE, AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WASHINGTON (May 29, 2019) – Today, the American Chemistry Council issued the following statement urging Governor Phil Scott (R-VT) to veto S.113 that bans single-use plastics, including polystyrene packaging products (this statement is attributable to Adam S. Peer, Senior Director, Packaging, Plastics Division):

“ACC is committed to helping end plastic waste in the environment. In fact, many of our [members](#) helped found the [Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#), which aims to invest over \$1.5 billion to deliver waste management solutions where they are needed most. Experts say up to 60 percent of marine plastic comes from just five countries. And while the U.S. accounts for less than 1 percent of litter in the ocean, ACC is committed to working with communities so that 100 percent of [plastic packaging](#) is reused, recycled or recovered.

“However, a ban on single-use plastic products is not the answer. These products provide business owners and consumers a cost-effective and environmentally preferable choice that is ideal for protecting food and preventing food waste. A ban on single-use packaging and foodservice containers, including polystyrene foam containers, may lead to increased solid waste, energy use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, banning plastic bags may negatively impact programs that recycle plastic films, such as dry-cleaning bags and bread bags. These programs help increase awareness on the recyclability of plastic films, which has increased dramatically since the program’s start.

“While we appreciate that the bill aligns [with our position](#) to provide straws upon request, the remaining provisions require us to strongly oppose this legislation. We urge Governor Scott to veto S. 113 and work with stakeholders on policies to eliminate plastic waste in the environment while ensuring the availability of products with the lowest overall environmental footprint.”

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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 \$526 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.

