



Statement

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jennifer Killinger (202) 249-6619

Email: jennifer_killinger@americanchemistry.com

AMERICA'S PLASTICS MAKERS SUPPORT CALLS TO ADDRESS LITTER IN WORLD'S OCEANS

WASHINGTON (December 10, 2014) – *The Five Gyres Institute today released a study that estimates the quantities of plastics in the world's oceans ("Plastic Pollution in the World's Oceans: More than 5 Trillion Plastic Pieces Weighing over 250,000 Tons Afloat at Sea").*

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement:

“America’s plastics makers wholeheartedly agree that littered plastics of any kind do not belong in the marine environment. Every day, plastics contribute to sustainability by enabling us to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover more of the resources that we rely on—and by helping to lower energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Even after plastics have fulfilled their initial purpose, these materials should be treated as valuable resources and recycled whenever possible or recovered for their energy value when they cannot.

“Recent multi-stakeholder efforts to develop solutions for marine litter—including a brochure (2014) produced by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP, an advisory group to the United Nations) and the Honolulu Strategy (2011)—have highlighted the importance of using modern, integrated waste management infrastructure and practices to combat marine litter throughout the globe. This includes recycling and energy recovery, and the American Chemistry Council’s Plastics Division and its member companies support these recommendations.

“Plastics makers in the United States and around the globe are engaged in many efforts to prevent and address marine litter. In 2011 leaders from the world’s plastics associations signed [The Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter](#), a public commitment aimed at contributing to real solutions to address marine litter. The commitment focuses on education, public policy, best practices, plastics recycling and recovery, plastic pellet containment, and research. Today, 60 plastics associations in 34 countries have signed on to the [Global Declaration](#), and 185 projects have been completed or are in progress in various parts of the world (see [2014 progress report](#)).

“Some of these include support for the [Curbside Value Partnership](#), a leader in promoting community recycling programs; Keep America Beautiful’s national consumer-focused recycling

— more —



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campaign, '[I Want to Be Recycled](#)'; support for legislation in New Jersey and Illinois to phase out microbeads in personal care products; and placing hundreds of recycling bins on California's beaches through the '[Plastics. Too Valuable to Waste. Recycle](#)TM' initiative."

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<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

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 an \$812 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is the nation's largest exporter, accounting for twelve percent of all 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.

