



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## CALIFORNIA PACKAGING RECYCLING LEGISLATION STALLS

SACRAMENTO (September 14, 2019)—*The California Legislature did not approve Senate Bill 54 (SB 54) and Assembly Bill 1080 (AB 1080), legislation that would have set ambitious new recycling and waste reduction targets for packaging. The Legislature has recessed for the year and will reconvene on January 6, 2020, when both bills may be reconsidered. The American Chemistry Council (ACC), which represents the nation's leading plastics producers, changed its position from opposed to neutral after the bill was amended to address several concerns, including requiring that all single-use packaging, regardless of material type, meet specified recycling rates. [Studies show](#) that switching from plastics to alternatives can increase greenhouse gas emissions and have other environmental impacts. ACC released the following statement, which may be attributed to Tim Shestek:*

“America’s plastic makers are taking important steps to significantly increase the amount of plastic packaging that we reuse, recycle and recover in the United States. We set a [nationwide goal](#) to repurpose all plastic packaging by 2040 and helped launch the [Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#), which will invest \$1.5 billion over five years to help develop and invest in infrastructure where it’s needed most.

ACC and our members support the goals of SB 54/AB 1080 and appreciated the work of Senator Allen, Skinner and Assembly member Gonzalez in taking this first step to address California’s recycling and waste issues.

We urge the Legislature to continue working on this issue and address key issues such as the need for funding to expand and improve the state’s recycling infrastructure and updating the state’s solid waste laws to ensure that innovative chemical recycling technologies are part of the solution. Additionally, as these bills would have granted significant new authority to CalRecycle, it is imperative that the Legislature maintain appropriate oversight during any future rulemaking process. Any new fees, mandates or other requirements must be fair, reasonable, and promote cooperation among all stakeholders.

Success can only be achieved if all stakeholders, including local governments and the waste and recycling industry, share in the responsibility of meeting this legislation’s objectives. We look forward to continued discussions on this important public policy issue.”

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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.*

