



Statement

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2020

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LEGISLATION WOULD INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

WASHINGTON (February 11, 2020) – *Today, U.S. Senator Tom Udall and U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal introduced legislation designed to address plastic waste. The American Chemistry Council responded with the following statement, which may be attributed to Keith Christman, managing director of ACC's Plastics Division:*

“ACC and our members are contributing to solutions to help end plastic waste, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Congress on legislation that will help improve plastic recycling and recovery in the United States. We have actively supported the bipartisan Save Our Seas Act (versions 1.0 and 2.0), and support the RECOVER Act and RECYCLE Act. And our members are leading in the deployment of system improvements and technology advances to convert a variety of used plastics into resources to make new plastics. Over the last 18 months we have seen more than \$4.2 billion in new investments in plastics recycling with potential to divert 6 billion pounds of plastics from landfill.

“But suggestions, such as a moratorium on new plastic facilities, would limit domestic manufacturing growth, jobs, tax revenues for local communities, and other benefits. Society needs plastics to live more sustainably. Plastics make our cars lighter and more fuel efficient and our homes more energy efficient while significantly lowering our carbon footprint. Plastic food packaging and pipe deliver clean food and water to people in our communities and around the globe. And plastics make possible affordable medical and personal care products. An award-winning study by the firm Trucost found that replacing plastics with alternatives in common packages and consumer products would raise environmental costs nearly fourfold. Thus the moratorium and bans on plastic products are likely to increase environmental impacts while limiting access to a material that enables society to do more with less.

We need plastics, and we need to end plastic waste and by moving toward a more circular economy for plastics.

- America's plastic makers are partnering with government, scientists and nonprofit organizations to develop solutions to help end plastic waste, such as by designing new products for greater recyclability, and by increasing technologies and systems to collect and repurpose more of our plastic resources.
- We've established a goal of making all plastic packaging in the United States recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and for all plastic packaging to be reused, recycled or repurposed by 2040. And many of America's plastic makers are among



the founders of and contributors to the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, a new nonprofit with a goal of deploying \$1.5 billion to help develop the systems, knowledge and infrastructure needed to collect and repurpose plastic waste in the environment, including in regions where most of the leakage occurs.

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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.

