



Statement

For Immediate Release

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HELPS BRING AWARENESS TO OCEAN PLASTICS PROBLEM

WASHINGTON (May 17, 2018)—*In its June issue, National Geographic magazine examines the global challenge of ocean plastics. The American Chemistry Council released the following statement, which may be attributed to Steve Russell, ACC's vice president of plastics:*

“Marine litter is a serious global problem, and we appreciate National Geographic’s thoughtful and compelling coverage. Plastic producers agree with the magazine, its readers and millions of concerned people around the world: Plastics don’t belong on our sidewalks, in our rivers or in our oceans.

We and our members are working with governments, NGOs, and our industry peers to deliver sustainable solutions. Through our “[Global Declaration](#),” 75 plastics associations from 40 countries have [launched 355 projects](#) that address education, research, public policy, sharing best practices, plastics recycling/recovery, and plastic pellet containment.

We know there’s more to be done. Last week America’s plastic resin makers announced an ambitious goal: to [recycle or recover all plastic packaging in the United States by 2040](#). Achieving a more circular economy for plastics will enable society to continue to harness plastics’ essential benefits, like enhancing the safety and sanitary packaging of food and personal care products, while helping to protect and restore the environment for future generations.”

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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 \$768 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for fourteen 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.

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