



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## PLASTIC MAKERS COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, REGULARLY PROVIDE DATA TO EPA

WASHINGTON (July 23, 2019) – *A number of environmental groups today filed a legal petition asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt new water-pollution limits for facilities that make plastics. The following may be attributed to the American Chemistry Council:*

“Our member companies are committed to excellence in product stewardship. As a condition of membership, under Responsible Care® they have adopted a [management system](#) that requires them to identify, measure, track and continuously improve environmental performance in all areas of their operations, including emissions or discharges from their facilities.

“We also encourage our members to participate in [Operation Clean Sweep®](#), a voluntary stewardship program administered jointly by the [Plastics Industry Association](#) and ACC. OCS is designed to help facilities implement procedures to keep plastic materials out of our waterways and eliminate plastic pellet, flake and powder loss.

“Discharges to waterways are already highly regulated under federal law. Regulations under the Clean Water Act set strict limits on discharges of specific chemicals created during the manufacture of plastic resin. Data are publicly reported (e.g., EPA TRI, EPA ECHO database), and EPA obtains additional data from the companies through their permits. EPA already has a variety of regulatory tools and should focus its efforts through existing program mechanisms.”

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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.*

