Statement

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Contact: Allyson Wilson (703) 741-5171
Email: Allyson_Wilson@americanchemistry.com

PLASTIC MAKERS’ INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO ADDRESS OCEAN
CONSERVANCY’S MARINE DEBRIS FINDINGS

Marine Debris Deserves and Demands ‘All Hands on Deck’

ARLINGTON, VA (April 13, 2010) – The American Chemistry Council issued the following statement regarding the Ocean Conservancy’s recently released “International Coastal Cleanup 2010 Report”

This year’s report from the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup (International Coastal Clean Up: Trash Travels), is a necessary reminder that much needs to be done to keep trash out of our oceans. The debris recovered from our planet’s beaches illustrates a global problem that will require local and international solutions.

As the report declares: “When we allow trash to fall from our hands… we create more than an eyesore… We’ve trashed our ocean and it’s time for us to turn the tide.”

We couldn’t agree more. There is much to be done to prevent plastics from becoming marine debris in the first place, and effective solutions will require community-based, regional and international partnerships. That’s why plastic makers are working diligently with elected officials, community leaders, nonprofit groups, and corporate decision makers to tailor and expand recycling programs and bolster anti-litter education.

When it comes to protecting our oceans for future generations, we are all in the same boat. For our part, America’s plastics makers are promoting industry-wide practices to contain plastic pellets, partnering with governments and conservationists to encourage recycling and discourage litter, educating children on the link between our litter and marine health, working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to advance scientific understanding of marine debris, supporting Project Kaisei’s research on the Pacific Gyre, and continuing to innovate and develop smaller, lighter packaging. And our website www.marinedebrissolutions.org is full of information to help educate people about marine debris and what they can do to help.

Plastics don’t belong in our oceans; they belong in recycling bins. Plastic materials are too valuable to waste and can be given a second life as carpeting, backyard decking, durable home building products and new bottles and bags.
About the Plastics Division

The American Chemistry Council’s Plastics Division represents leading companies dedicated to providing innovative solutions to the challenges of today and tomorrow through plastics. Ongoing innovations in plastics have led to medical advances and safety equipment that make our lives better, healthier and safer every day. ACC members are finding innovative ways for plastics to help save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease waste. Since plastics are a valuable resource, too valuable to waste, the Plastics Division is at the forefront of efforts to reduce litter through increased access to recycling, advancements in recycling technology, and public education.

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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 $689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is one of the nation’s largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in 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.