Statement  
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PLASTIC MAKERS WELCOME HOUSE INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN ‘PLASTICS ACT’

WASHINGTON (October 21, 2019)—Lead Republican Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Chairman Eliot Engel (D-NY) last week introduced The Partnering and Leveraging Assistance to Stop Trash for Cleaner Seas Act (PLASTICS Act, H.R. 4636), which seeks to reduce marine debris and plastic waste in the ocean by leveraging U.S. assistance to support effective waste management systems in developing countries.

The following statement may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of ACC’s Plastics Division:

“The American Chemistry Council strongly supports the recently introduced PLASTICS Act, which seeks to reduce ocean plastics by encouraging innovative, market-based solutions and catalyzing private capital to enable the development of integrated waste management systems and strengthen markets for recycled materials. Each of these factors is critical for keeping plastics out of the ocean.

Importantly, this legislation also would support local economic development through programs that assist community members, particularly women, youth and marginalized populations, in deriving benefits from waste products and participation in waste management systems.

In 2018, America’s plastic makers established a goal of making all plastic packaging in the United States reusable, recyclable, or recoverable by 2030 and for all plastic packaging to be reused, recycled, or recovered by 2040. A collaborative effort—including government, industry, recyclers, and other stakeholders—will be critical to achieving these goals.

“In addition to these domestic goals, 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 waste, including in regions around the world where most environmental leakage occurs. Other key members of the Alliance include consumer brand companies, plastic processors and recyclers.”

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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.