



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Allyson Wilson (202) 249-6623

Email: allyson_wilson@americanchemistry.com

PLASTIC MAKERS WELCOME HOUSE INTRODUCTION OF SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT

WASHINGTON (July 25, 2019)— *Today, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Congressman Don Young (R-AK), Co-Chairs of the Bipartisan House Oceans Caucus, introduced the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, HR 3969. The following statement may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of ACC's Plastics Division:*

“We are excited to work with Congress toward the passage of this critical bipartisan legislation. America’s plastic makers strongly support the bill’s focus on repurposing our plastic resources, and on reinforcing U.S. leadership in working with other governments to share knowledge and improve infrastructure to better manage and recycle more plastic waste. Plastic waste is a solvable challenge and this legislation will accelerate solutions in critical areas.

“The *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act* supports scientists and agencies in studying innovative ways to repurpose used plastics, including converting used plastics into chemicals, feedstocks, and other products for new manufacturing and studying ways to repurpose plastics in infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges. We believe these actions will help accelerate progress toward a circular economy for plastics in the United States and abroad.

“Additionally, passage of this bill would create a revolving fund to strengthen domestic recycling. 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—involving 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 \$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.

