



# Statement

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## ACC, PLASTICS MAKERS LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH CONGRESS ON LEGISLATION THAT WILL HELP END PLASTIC WASTE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

WASHINGTON (July 18, 2019)—*U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) today announced plans to introduce legislation later this year aimed at helping end plastic waste. Udall and Lowenthal also shared an outline of their bill. The American Chemistry Council issued the following statement in response to the announcement:*

“America’s plastic makers are fully committed to doing our part to help end plastic waste, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Congress in shaping legislation that will help cleanup and protect our environment.

“For example, [we support](#) the bipartisan [Save Our Seas 2.0 Act](#) introduced earlier this year, which would aid scientists and agencies in identifying innovative ways to repurpose used plastics and to study technologies for converting these materials into resources for new manufacturing. SOS 2.0 also would provide assistance to help nations with rapidly developing economies build the infrastructure and systems needed to recycle, recover and manage more waste. [Research shows](#) that more than 60 percent of waste enters the ocean from just five countries. In contrast, less than one percent of ocean leakage occurs in the United States. These steps are critical for accelerating the move toward a [circular economy in the United States and abroad](#).

“Unfortunately, the outline of new legislation released today suggests banning certain plastics, which, studies show, would have the unintended consequences of increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. [A robust study](#) completed in 2015 by the firm Trucost shows that replacing plastics with alternatives in common packages and consumer products would raise environmental costs nearly fourfold.

“America’s plastics makers are partnering with government, scientists and non-profit organizations to develop solutions to help end plastic waste, such as by designing new products for greater recyclability, and by increasing technologies and systems to collect and repurpose more of our plastic resources. We’ve established a goal of making all plastic packaging in the United States recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and for all [plastic packaging to be reused, recycled or recovered by 2040](#).

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“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 plastic waste in the environment, including in regions where most of the leakage occurs.” Other key members of the Alliance include brand owners, 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.*

