



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## **PLASTICS MAKERS WELCOME INNOVATIONS IN FOODSERVICE PACKAGING DESIGN AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND EMPHASIZE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF WASTE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

WASHINGTON (July 11, 2018)—*Recently some businesses have announced plans to redesign carryout cups and lids for greater recyclability and to eliminate the wasteful use of straws. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement, which may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of plastics:*

“Plastics makers have a strong track record of innovating for greater efficiency and sustainable design. We collaborate with our value-chain partners to improve the design of materials, products, and packages to reduce waste and increase recyclability—and we commend those who are creating a [more circular economy for plastics](#).

Innovations in design and systems to reduce waste are essential because studies show that simply replacing plastics with other materials in packaging and consumer products [would increase costs to the environment fourfold](#). New designs and approaches must be evaluated with an eye toward understanding the full range of benefits and impacts throughout an item’s total life cycle.

Governments, companies, citizens and nonprofits all are looking at ways to reduce waste and keep trash out of our oceans. We support responsible choices so customers aren’t automatically provided with straws, but can get one on request. We need to focus on the big picture—keeping used plastics out of our rivers and waterways will require comprehensive efforts to [expand waste management systems](#), particularly in parts of the world that currently lack them. Scientists have determined the vast majority of ocean plastics come from rapidly developing regions where a growing need for modern materials has outpaced systems to manage waste. Plastics makers are supporting these comprehensive programs.”

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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*

— more —



*designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$768 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for fourteen 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.*

