



News Release

For Immediate Release

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PLASTICS MAKERS WELCOME INTRODUCTION OF SAVE OUR SEAS ACT 2.0

WASHINGTON (June 26, 2019)—The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today praised the Senate’s introduction of the *Save Our Seas Act 2.0* and thanked Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) for continuing to lead a collaborative, bipartisan effort to address the problem of marine debris.

“We are excited to work with Congress toward the passage of this important and much needed legislation,” said Steve Russell, vice president of ACC’s Plastics Division. “America’s plastic makers strongly support the bill’s focus on developing ways to repurpose our plastic resources. And we welcome new opportunities to work with other governments to increase knowledge sharing and improve plastic waste management and recycling infrastructure.”

The *Save Our Seas Act 2.0* seeks to support scientists and agencies in studying innovative ways to repurpose used plastics in and beyond infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and to study technologies for converting used plastics into chemicals, feedstocks and other products for new manufacturing. These steps are critical for accelerating the move toward a circular economy in the United States and abroad.

Additionally, passage of this bill would create a state revolving fund to strengthen our domestic recycling infrastructure. In 2018, America’s plastics makers established a goal of making all plastic packaging in the United States recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and for all plastic packaging to be recycled or recovered by 2040. A collaborative effort—involving government, industry, recyclers, and other stakeholders—will be critical to achieving these 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 where most environmental 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

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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.

