Statement

For Immediate Release  November 11, 2019
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PROPOSED CALIFORNIA BALLOT INITIATIVE UNNECESSARY

SACRAMENTO (November 11, 2019)—A far-reaching ballot initiative (“California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2020”) was filed in California last week. The American Chemistry Council responded with the following statement, which may be attributed to Tim Shestek, senior director of state affairs in Sacramento:

“The California Legislature spent the better part of 2019 working with a variety of stakeholders to craft landmark legislation (SB 54/AB 1080) that would set unprecedented collection, recovery and waste reduction rates for single-use packaging. Last week’s proposed ballot initiative is unnecessary and could divert resources and energy away from realizing a true circular economy in California.

“Lawmakers are expected to resume finalizing both bills when the Legislature reconvenes in January. Unfortunately, this ballot initiative only serves as a distraction from that effort.

“Plastics makers are committed to helping create a circular economy and ending plastic waste in the environment. ACC will continue to work with lawmakers and stakeholders on SB 54 and AB 1080.

“Additionally, we’ve set goals intended to make all plastic packaging recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and for all plastic packaging to be recycled or recovered by 2040. Our members are contributing to innovations, systems and programs that are enabling more circular systems for how we use plastics, so that what we once thought of as “waste,” can be treated as valuable resources for tomorrow’s manufacturing.

“In addition, companies that make, use and recycle plastics have formed the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, through which they’ve committed over $1 billion over the next five years to help fund – and encourage additional investments in – solutions to capture and reuse our plastic resources to benefit communities and society.

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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.