



# Statement

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## U.S. POLYETHYLENE EXPORTS SUPPORT A NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL AND STRONG MARKETS

WASHINGTON (January 25, 2020) – *China has announced plans to phase out certain plastic products in the coming years. Some of these products, such as carryout bags and straws, are made with polyethylene. The American Chemistry Council has responded with the following statement, which may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of ACC's Plastics Division:*

Polyethylene plastic is used in a variety of applications across automotive, building and construction, consumer goods, packaging, and other sectors. North American polyethylene exports support a wide range of uses in each of these sectors domestically, in China, and around the world. Like many countries, China is considering options to improve sustainability and strengthen domestic recycling. While it's too soon to know what impact China's current plans might have, North American polyethylene exports support a number of large and essential uses in strong markets.

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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.*

