ACC: U.S. TARIFFS LEVIED AGAINST MORE THAN 1,500 CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS WILL HAVE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR PRODUCERS, SUPPLIERS, AND CONSUMERS

WASHINGTON (September 24, 2018) – The following statement may be attributed to American Chemistry Council (ACC) Director of International Trade, Ed Brzytwa, in response to the implementation today of U.S. List 3 tariffs and subsequent retaliation by China against U.S. exports:

“With the U.S. and China imposing another round of tariffs on an increasing number of products, the cost of doing business in the United States is rising. U.S. manufacturers today face a steep climb to retain our position as one of the world’s leading, low-cost producers of chemicals. A total of 1,517 chemicals and plastics imports from China, valued at $15.4 billion, have now been targeted across all three U.S. lists. The tariffs will cut off U.S. manufacturers from international supply chains and from importing inputs that help keep them competitive in the global marketplace. At the same time, retaliatory tariffs by China have hit more than 1,000 U.S. chemicals and plastics exports, worth an estimated $10.8 billion, erecting a huge barrier to China’s growing markets.

“The tariffs – in effect a tax – put U.S. chemical manufacturers at a disadvantage, but we aren’t the only ones that will suffer the impact. Since chemistry touches 96 percent of all manufactured goods, taxes on our industry will ultimately raise the prices of popular consumer products – everything from cars and trucks to electronics.

“As with previous tariff rounds, U.S. chemicals manufacturers welcome the opportunity to make a case for why more chemicals should be excluded from this round of tariffs. Earlier this month, our industry reached a milestone – surpassing $200 billion in announced new chemical investment projects here in the United States. Around half of that investment is still in the planning or development stages and therefore vulnerable to delay or abandonment as a result of the new tariffs imposed on our industry. Nearly all of that investment is focused on serving the global market. American businesses, which may have to consider shifting their production overseas to avoid the tariffs, or face the possibility of having to close up shop entirely, deserve the opportunity to be heard.

“Our industry has been clear that a tit-for-tat trade war will hurt U.S. manufacturers, retailers, and consumers. We call on the U.S. and China to resume negotiations toward an agreement that will eliminate the need for these costly tariffs.”
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 $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.