



# Statement

**For Immediate Release**

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## **VEHICLE LIGHTWEIGHTING WITH PLASTICS STILL CRITICAL TO SAFETY, PERFORMANCE AND CONSUMER PREFERENCE**

WASHINGTON (April 3, 2018)—*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency yesterday announced completion of its Midterm Evaluation for greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and light trucks (model years 2022 to 2025), which determined that current standards are not appropriate and should be revised. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement, which may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of ACC's Plastics Division:*

“America’s plastics makers will continue to assist regulators and the automotive value chain by serving as advanced lightweight plastic and composite material experts during the upcoming rulemaking process.

Advanced plastic and composite materials will remain an essential means to economically enhance vehicle safety features, reduce vehicle related injuries and fatalities, and optimize performance and consumer preference through design flexibility.

And looking to the future, autonomous and connected vehicles will increasingly rely on lightweight, high-strength plastics and composites. Strong, lightweight plastics and composites enable innovative vehicle design while helping to offset the heavy equipment needed for self-driving vehicles, providing excellent energy absorption, boosting vehicle performance, and saving consumers money at the pump.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the automotive value chain as we continue to develop lightweight solutions that enable self-driving and connected vehicles while enhancing both occupant safety and fuel economy.”

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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*

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*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.*

