March 10, 2026

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch:

On behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and our member companies, I write to express strong support for the swift confirmation of Dr. Wesley Brooks to serve as the next Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Consideration of Dr. Brooks' nomination comes at a critical time. The next round of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution is approaching, and it is essential that the United States have a confirmed Assistant Secretary in place to help lead and represent American interests.

The United States has an opportunity to shape a global agreement that supports continued innovation and economic growth, while also addressing the issue of plastic waste leaking into the environment. Strong U.S. engagement is vital to securing an outcome that reflects our national priorities—particularly the need for an agreement that recognizes the critical role of American manufacturing, supports scalable and science-based solutions, and promotes trade in circular economy technologies and materials. An America First plastics agreement will continue to strengthen U.S. energy dominance, validate the important role that plastics play in our society, and foster opportunities for businesses to invest in domestic manufacturing. In addition, the United Nations Environment Program plans to hold the first International Conference for the Global Framework on Chemicals this Fall, a risk-based international framework with the potential to advance American-style chemicals management systems to key markets for American companies.

Dr. Brooks' background in environmental policy and his leadership in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water as Deputy Assistant Administrator positions him well to help lead the U.S. negotiating team and to articulate a strategic America First vision in these discussions. His leadership will be critical in helping to ensure the United States is not merely reacting to the terms of an agreement written by our competitors to benefit their own industries but actively shaping them in a way that puts America first and upholds our energy dominance, environmental integrity, and economic competitiveness.

The Trump Administration must have the full diplomatic team in place to influence the final outcome of this process, and time is of the essence. I respectfully urge the Senate to act without delay in confirming Dr. Brooks so he can immediately engage in meaningful resumption of INC-5 or lead the establishment and implementation of a new INC-6.

Thank you for your consideration of this important nomination and for your continued leadership on issues vital to American industry and global environmental cooperation.

Sincerely,



Chris Jahn
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council