

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Continued U.S. Engagement in the INC Plastic Pollution Agreement Negotiations

Dear Secretary Rubio:

The undersigned organizations strongly encourage continued engagement by the U.S. State Department in the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process for a Plastic Pollution Agreement. As representatives of the plastics value chain, we believe an effective Agreement would provide global economic opportunities. We have actively participated in the INC negotiations, and we seek an agreement that focuses on eliminating plastic pollution, not eliminating plastic; provides nations flexibility to address unique national circumstances; recognizes the tremendous societal benefits of plastics; and enables a more circular economy. We believe collaboration with our U.S. federal partners, other national governments, and the INC Secretariat provides an opportunity to achieve those objectives.

The Business Community Needs U.S. Engagement. Because the INC negotiations will move forward with or without U.S. participation, an agreement adopted without input from the U.S. would likely disadvantage U.S. businesses, potentially introducing non-tariff trade barriers that bar access to critical global markets. Given the complex, global nature of product supply chains, U.S.-based manufacturing would face risks from a treaty constructed without U.S. business considerations. Those risks would reach beyond packaging providers to affect complex durable goods producers as well. Remaining engaged in the INC process, however, would provide the Trump administration an opportunity to address the issue of plastic pollution while ensuring a final agreement that is fair for U.S. business interests and boosts U.S. manufacturing. The benefits of U.S. engagement include:

- **Protecting the Environment and the Oceans.** The first Trump administration took several actions to address plastic pollution in the environment, most notably enacting the “Save Our Seas Act of 2018” and the “Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.” The global agreement provides an opportunity to build upon these efforts and keep the agreement focused on solutions to protect the environment and oceans from plastic pollution.
- **Safeguarding U.S. Business and Maintaining Global Influence.** If the U.S. withdraws from the negotiations, American businesses operating globally could face barriers and lose market access. Active participation in the negotiations enables the U.S. to shape the global standard for plastics and prevents other countries from setting rules that could disadvantage American industries. U.S. engagement would also safeguard jobs, promote economic growth, and enable technology advancements. Absence of U.S.

engagement will likely result in an agreement more favorable to the European Union's overly regulatory approach or include opportunities that favor the Chinese market. U.S.-based manufacturing would, therefore, be forced to operate in an environment that does not seek to benefit our business interests and national economy.

- **Supporting Pro-Business Approaches with Broad Support** - Ahead of INC-5 in 2024, the U.S. Chamber and several private sector trade associations issued a [coalition letter to the State Department recommending pro-business principles](#) for the plastic pollution agreement. Those recommendations include the need for a balanced, hybrid agreement that allows countries to address unique plastic pollution issues, avoiding harmful production restrictions, and supporting a pro-growth policy agenda, particularly when considering frameworks such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). U.S. engagement can ensure proposals designed with broad stakeholder support are included in the agreement.
- **Unleashing American Innovation.** U.S. leadership will ensure the agreement enables the development of innovative recycling technologies, product designs, and waste management systems, thereby enabling a circular economy that supports the U.S. business community's global leadership.

The next round of INC negotiations is scheduled for August 5-14, 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland. This session will be a critical juncture in the negotiations, building on constructive progress made during the previous session. Continued U.S. engagement in these discussions could ensure the final agreement is both ambitious and implementable.

The U.S. can continue leading the deployment of game-changing plastic waste collection and recycling technologies and practices, including advanced recycling. You can help us maintain that leadership through continued engagement in the INC process, and we are prepared to be your partners in collaboration.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Automotive Innovation

American Chemistry Council

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Communications Cable & Connectivity Association (CCCA)

EPS Industry Alliance

PLASTICS Industry Association

PRINTING United Alliance
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Vinyl Institute