

September 30, 2024

The Honorable John Podesta  
Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
United States State Department  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Brenda Mallory  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Equality  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Special Presidential Envoy Podesta and Chair Mallory:

Our undersigned organizations agree that preventing plastic pollution in the environment is critical, and we strongly support efforts to create an ambitious UN global plastics pollution agreement. We acknowledge the State Department's commitment to soliciting feedback from a diverse range of stakeholders, which will help inform the U.S. government's positions in negotiating an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

We are concerned, however, with a major change in negotiating position by the Administration that could include a potential "north star target" as an aspiration to reduce plastics production in the U.S. We urge you to restore the U.S. government's leadership role as a key broker in the negotiations and to engage with the full value chain of plastics-involved industries. It is important to understand how a reduction in U.S. plastics production, without readily identifiable and commercially available alternatives for critical industries will negatively impact U.S. manufacturing—including the complex durable goods and defense sectors—and in turn the U.S. economy.

We believe that preventing plastic pollution in the environment and creating a circular economy for plastics depends on ambitious investments in the research, development, and deployment of new plastics, materials, products, and packaging design, recycling infrastructure, and other innovations. The main goals should be eliminating plastics entering the environment and accelerating circularity, not limiting plastic production. A global agreement is an essential part of this effort to drive domestic action toward providing effective policies, technologies, and market signals

to catalyze public and private investments in circularity and waste management worldwide.

Plastics are central inputs across a broad range of sectors and are essential for products that Americans rely on every day. The polymers used for simple products are the same polymers used in durable goods to achieve many lightweighting, safety, durability, and environmental objectives. Global and domestic plastics demand is projected to increase significantly across all applications.

Restricting access and production for materials needed for many manufacturing sectors (e.g., the energy transition, medical, aerospace, defense, electronics, mobility, semiconductor, water infrastructure), without readily identifiable and commercially available alternatives could result in price increases, supply reliability issues, and reduced product efficacy. Such market distorting restrictions would undoubtedly inhibit innovation. In addition, we believe calls to have a north star target to reduce plastic production-would also create challenges in maintaining the bipartisan consensus necessary for support in Congress for any final global agreement.

Notwithstanding the lack of legal authority to reduce domestic production, such goals will ultimately hurt American workers and consumers, as highlighted in [this recent analysis](#). Reducing supply is not practical and is contrary to our national climate and environmental commitments and policies.

Our organizations believe U.S. negotiators should leverage America's business community to develop workable, market-based solutions to plastics pollution in the environment. We hope the Administration will follow up on the work of the State Department's End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative, which is a promising vehicle for driving partnerships. Realizing that this is only a start, and that there is much more work to do, we know we will get further faster if we all work together on this and other initiatives.

We are eager to work with the Administration and urge you to focus on the best policies in our national economic, environmental, and strategic interests.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Automotive Innovation  
Alliance for Chemical Distribution  
American Chemistry Council

American Composites Manufacturers Association  
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Petroleum Institute  
Communications Cabling and Connectivity Association  
EPS Industry Alliance  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Plastics Industry Association  
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association  
PRINTING United Alliance  
PVC Pipe Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Vinyl Institute

Cc: The Honorable Jose Fernandez, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy,  
and Environment, U.S. State Department