



SUPPORT CT SB 299

CT SB 299— *An Act to curtail the automatic distribution of single-use plastic straws in the state at certain locations.*

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association representing the chemical and plastics industries including member companies in the State of Connecticut. These companies are responsible for the creation of more than 7500 direct jobs; 4095 related jobs; and an additional 5635 jobs in plastics and rubber. They also generate \$934 million in payroll and contribute \$111 million in state and local taxes.

ACC and its members are committed to the safety of our products, the protection of public health and the sustainability of our environment. More specifically, we strongly support efforts to reduce litter and minimize solid waste.

ACC's supports legislation to provide straws through an 'on-demand' system, which gives customers choice and helps prevent waste by ensuring that straws are distributed only to those who need them. ACC developed its position as part of ongoing efforts to help promote the responsible use of valuable plastic materials and in accordance with our commitment to the [Trash Free Seas Alliance®](#) (TFSA).

Since 2011, America's Plastics Makers® have partnered in many efforts to research and prevent marine debris around the world under our "[Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter](#)," which has been signed by 74 plastics associations in 40 countries. Our [2018 Progress Report](#) lists 355 projects that have been completed or are progressing in various parts of the world since the effort began. TSFA brings together thought leaders to work toward the immediate goal of reducing the amount of plastic waste entering the ocean annually by 50 percent by 2025.

ACC is committed to helping end plastic waste, which is the reason that we set goals to have 100 percent of plastics packaging be recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and re-used, recycled, or recovered by 2040. Many of our [members](#) helped found the [Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#) which aims to invest \$1.5 billion to deliver waste management solutions where they are needed most. Experts report up to 60 percent of marine plastic comes from just five countries. And while it's estimated that the U.S. accounts for less than one percent of litter in the ocean, ACC is committed to working with communities so that 100 percent of [plastic packaging](#) is reused, recycled or recovered.

SUMMARY

In summary, ACC and ACC's Plastics Division have demonstrated a strong commitment to working with industry and government to find a sustainable solution to the litter problem and to improve our environment through recycling, reusing and recovering plastics. **For these reasons, we support CT SB 299 that would allow owners and operators of full service restaurants to provide single-use plastic straws to customers on demand and to disabled individuals.**

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Gorman
Senior Director, Northeast Region
American Chemistry Council
Margaret_Gorman@americanchemistry.com
518-432-7835

