

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4636
OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Partnering and
3 Leveraging Assistance to Stop Trash for International
4 Cleaner Seas Act” or the “PLASTICS Act”.

5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Eight million metric tons of plastic enter
8 the ocean every year. Marine debris damages the
9 health of marine life, impedes local economic devel-
10 opment, and threatens health systems. Ten river sys-
11 tems carry an estimated 90 percent of the river-
12 based plastic waste that ends up in the ocean.

13 (2) Mismanaged plastic waste has the highest
14 risk of contaminating rivers and oceans. China con-
15 tributes the largest share of this mismanaged waste,
16 followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam,
17 Thailand, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa. The
18 United States is the world’s second-largest producer

1 and consumer of plastics products, and the top ex-
2 porter of plastic scrap.

3 (3) Most marine debris, particularly plastics,
4 enters the oceans from land-based sources, mainly in
5 developing countries, that lack the capacity to ade-
6 quately manage waste and prevent dumping.

7 (4) During the Our Ocean Conference in Octo-
8 ber 2018, the United States announced assistance to
9 prevent marine debris from entering the ocean
10 through development of waste management systems
11 and reduce plastics in marine protected areas in the
12 Indo-Pacific.

13 (5) During the June 2019 G20 Summit in
14 Osaka, Japan, the United States joined other G20
15 members in endorsing the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vi-
16 sion” to reduce additional pollution by marine plas-
17 tic litter to zero by 2050 and the G20 Implementa-
18 tion Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Lit-
19 ter, which outlines a commitment to prevent and re-
20 duce plastic debris in the oceans through waste man-
21 agement and clean-up efforts to remove marine plas-
22 tic debris and prioritizes efforts to advance innova-
23 tive solutions and international cooperation to sup-
24 port such initiatives.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to consult, part-
3 ner, and coordinate with the governments of foreign coun-
4 tries, international organizations, private and civil society
5 entities, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to—

6 (1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plas-
7 tic waste, including through reduced consumption,
8 greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste,
9 and support for integrated waste management sys-
10 tems in developing countries;

11 (2) advance innovative market-based solutions
12 and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce
13 marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated
14 waste management systems, and improve market de-
15 mand for recycled material;

16 (3) build the capacity of national and sub-
17 national governments in other countries to develop
18 and implement integrated waste management sys-
19 tems, measure and report progress in reducing plas-
20 tic waste, and prevent plastic waste from entering
21 rivers and oceans;

22 (4) support local economic development through
23 programs that assist community members, particu-
24 larly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to
25 derive economic benefit from waste products and
26 participation in waste management systems; and

1 (5) engage in international and regional co-
2 operation to prevent and reduce marine debris and
3 plastic waste, share best practices, and empower na-
4 tional and subnational governments, local commu-
5 nities, civil society, and the private sector to engage
6 in such efforts.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that, in pursuing the pol-
9 icy described in section 3, the President should direct
10 United States representatives to appropriate international
11 bodies to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United
12 States to advocate support for the following:

13 (1) Efforts to improve transparency in global
14 trade of plastic waste, improve plastic waste regula-
15 tion to ensure the safety of humans and the environ-
16 ment, strengthen integrated waste management sys-
17 tems, and prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic
18 waste, to the extent practical.

19 (2) Collaborative approaches to establish meas-
20 urable targets and objectives, with related action
21 plans, for reducing marine debris and plastic waste
22 from all sources and sharing best practices in waste
23 prevention and management systems to prevent plas-
24 tic waste.

1 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO IMPROVE WASTE**
2 **MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PREVENT AND**
3 **REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
5 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
6 national Development, in coordination with the heads of
7 relevant Federal departments and agencies, are authorized
8 to prioritize and advance ongoing global efforts to—

9 (1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plas-
10 tic waste, including through reduced consumption,
11 greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste,
12 and support for integrated waste management sys-
13 tems in developing countries;

14 (2) advance innovative market-based solutions
15 and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce
16 marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated
17 waste management systems, and improve market de-
18 mand for recycled material;

19 (3) build the capacity of national and sub-
20 national governments in other countries to develop
21 and implement integrated waste management sys-
22 tems, measure and report progress in reducing plas-
23 tic waste, and prevent plastic waste from entering
24 rivers and oceans; and

25 (4) support local economic development through
26 programs that assist community members, particu-

1 larly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to
2 derive economic benefit from waste products and
3 participation in waste management systems.

4 (b) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The
5 Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the
6 Chief Executive Officer of the United States International
7 Development Finance Corporation and the Chief Execu-
8 tive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and
9 in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal depart-
10 ments and agencies, are authorized and encouraged to
11 work with entities in the private sector and with non-
12 governmental organizations to leverage sources of public
13 and private capital to complement the efforts described in
14 subsection (a), including by financing infrastructure in-
15 vestments, supporting capacity-building activities, and en-
16 tering into cost-sharing, cost-matching, and other coopera-
17 tive agreements to support and finance such efforts.

18 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary
19 and the Administrator shall establish monitoring and eval-
20 uation mechanisms, including measurable goals, objec-
21 tives, and benchmarks, to ensure the effective use of
22 United States foreign assistance to achieve the objectives
23 described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

24 (d) DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.—In car-
25 rying out the authority under subsection (a), the Secretary

1 and the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of
2 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall seek to
3 provide technical assistance to mobilize the domestic re-
4 sources of recipient countries in order to increase cost-
5 sharing, self-reliance, and host country ownership of waste
6 prevention and management programs.

7 (e) COST LIMITATION.—No additional funds are au-
8 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

9 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Ad-
11 ministrator, in consultation with the heads of relevant
12 Federal departments and agencies, shall jointly submit to
13 the appropriate congressional committees a report on on-
14 going programs and monitoring and evaluation mecha-
15 nisms to carry out the authority under subsection (a) that
16 includes a description of—

17 (1) the monitoring and evaluation plans and in-
18 dicators used to measure performance of assistance
19 programs, in accordance with subsection (d);

20 (2) best practices and lessons learned in imple-
21 menting the efforts authorized under subsection (a);

22 (3) the extent to which recipient countries have
23 demonstrated a commitment and willingness to co-
24 operate to advance the efforts described in sub-

1 section (a) and to dedicate resources to support
2 waste prevention and management initiatives;

3 (4) the extent to which host country govern-
4 ments and other governments in the region are in-
5 vesting resources to advance initiatives to prevent or
6 reduce marine debris and plastic waste and develop
7 integrated waste management systems; and

8 (5) the extent to which other funding sources,
9 including through private sector investment, have
10 been identified to advance waste prevention and
11 management initiatives.

12 (g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
13 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
14 gressional committees” means—

15 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
16 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives; and

18 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
19 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

