



## **American Chemistry Council Statement for the Record**

### **Examining Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products Submitted to House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health**

**May 1, 2015**

#### **Introduction**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) welcomes the opportunity to work with Chairman Fred Upton and Ranking Member Frank Pallone to develop consensus legislation that would phase out plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in rinse-off personal care products. We join many environmentalists and personal care product manufacturers who also support this legislation.

#### **American Chemistry Council and Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products**

The Plastics Division of ACC represents the producers of raw materials used to create a wide variety of plastic products that help make our lives better, healthier and safer -- from lightweight and resource-efficient packaging that keeps our food safer and fresher than ever before; to energy-saving cars, buildings and appliances; to the cell phones that keep us connected. While we know that plastics provide many important benefits to modern life, we agree that they do not belong in lakes, oceans or other waterways.

For several years we have actively engaged in [education, research and campaigns](#) to reduce the environmental impact of plastics. ACC and America's plastics makers have helped lead the development of our industry's 'Global Declaration on Solutions for Marine Litter,' which has been signed by more than 60 plastics associations in 34 countries. Designed to keep plastics out of our oceans and waterways, this initiative has empowered our industry to implement more than 185 projects to reduce marine debris.

Consistent with this position, ACC actively supported legislation in Illinois, New Jersey, Maine and other states. These bills were thoughtfully and deliberately constructed to prevent plastic microbeads in personal care products from entering waterways.

We support a consistent national approach to this issue, and we believe such an effort would benefit the environment, as well as plastics producers and consumers. We are prepared to support federal legislation based on the consensus-based policy models that have been developed and enacted in New Jersey and Illinois following two years of careful debate.



We look forward to working with Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone, as well as all the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health Subcommittee, to advance solutions that benefit our environment.

### **Conclusion**

Given the importance of protecting the environment, we support federal legislation based on the strong actions taken in New Jersey and Illinois to phase out plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in rinse-off personal care products.

If you have any questions about ACC's positions, please contact Booth Jameson at [Booth\\_Jameson@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Booth_Jameson@americanchemistry.com)

*The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is an \$812 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is the nation's largest exporter, accounting for twelve percent of all U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the nation's largest energy consumers.*

