

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Environment
“Markup of Three Pieces of Legislation.”
May 14, 2026
Documents for the Record

1. May 13, 2026, A letter from the American Forest & Paper Association addressed to Chairman Palmer and Ranking Member Tonko, submitted by the Majority.
2. May 13, 2026, A joint industry letter addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Palmer, Ranking Member Pallone, and Ranking Member Tonko, submitted by the Majority.
3. May 14, 2026, A letter from the Plastics Industry Association addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Palmer, Ranking Member Pallone, and Ranking Member Tonko, submitted by the Majority.



May 13, 2026

The Honorable Gary Palmer
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Environment
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Palmer and Ranking Member Tonko:

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) supports the Subcommittee on Environment's markup of H.R. 4109, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA), and H.R. 2145, Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (RIAA).

AF&PA supports H.R. 4109, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act, which will help further increase and improve recycling and composting in the U.S. by helping the Environmental Protection Agency to improve measurement, data and reporting tools. AF&PA also supports H.R. 2145, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act, which will improve recycling accessibility in underserved communities.

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance public policies that foster economic growth, job creation and global competitiveness for a vital sector that makes the essential paper and packaging products Americans use every day. The U.S. forest products industry employs more than 925,000 people, largely in rural America, and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 44 states. Our industry accounts for approximately 4.7% of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufacturing more than \$435 billion in products annually. AF&PA member companies are significant producers and users of renewable biomass energy and are committed to making sustainable products for a sustainable future through the industry's decades-long initiative — [Better Practices, Better Planet 2030](#).

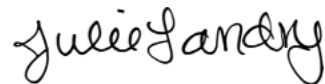
Paper recycling is a model that works. The paper and paper-based packaging industry has a demonstrated, measurable record of success in making paper products more circular and sustainable through market-based approaches. In 2024, our paper recycling rate was 60-64% and our cardboard recycling rate was 69-74%. The paper industry recycles nearly 60% more paper today than it did in 1990.

Paper recycling is well integrated within our industry – AF&PA members own and operate more than 100 materials recovery facilities (MRFs) nationwide. During 2019-2025, our industry invested in projects at paper mills that will use over 4.5 million additional tons of recycled paper. In addition, our members have also set a goal to increase the use of secondary materials like recycled paper in new paper products to 50% by 2030.

Our industry prioritizes data collection to improve recycling rates and we have long invested in research into the state of paper recycling and how we can improve. The [2021 AF&PA Access to Recycling Study](#) shows that 94 percent of Americans have access to community paper and paperboard recycling programs. In addition, AF&PA's [Design Guidance for Recyclability](#) provides data for packaging designers and consumer brands interested in improving the recyclability of their packaging on how non-fiber elements impact the recyclability of paper-based packaging.

AF&PA believes that both the RCAA and RIAA will help generate the necessary data to improve the accessibility of recycling, particularly in rural and underserved communities. AF&PA is pleased that the STEWARD Act (S.351) was passed by the Senate, and we urge the Committee on Energy & Commerce to examine its legislative counterparts in the House. We look forward to working with the Committee to help advance these important bills and other policies to strengthen the recycling system.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Landry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Landry
Vice President, Government Affairs
American Forest & Paper Association

May 13, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Gary Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

Pass the Recycling Infrastructure Accessibility Act (H.R. 2145) and the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (H.R. 4109)

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Palmer, Ranking Member Pallone, Ranking Member Tonko, and Members of the Committee:

As leading companies, trade associations and advocates for the recycling industry, we are calling for the passage of two bipartisan bills that would significantly improve recycling systems in the United States. The Recycling Infrastructure Accessibility Act (RIAA), introduced by Representative Miller-Meeks, and the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA), introduced by Representative Neguse, would improve access to recycling services and advance the recovery and reuse of materials that are essential to America's manufacturing supply chains.

The RIAA and RCAA enjoy broad bipartisan support and passed the Senate by unanimous consent for the third time in early 2025. They are also endorsed by a broad coalition of stakeholders including manufacturers, consumer brands, trade groups, and environmental organizations. Given the widespread support for RCAA and RIAA legislation, we urge the House Energy and Commerce Committee to report both bills favorably out of committee and advance them to the House floor. We also urge swift and final passage of both bills by the House of Representatives.

Every year, millions of pounds of valuable recyclable materials—worth billions of dollars—are sent to landfills. This includes materials designated as critical by the Department of War. Manufacturers across a wide range of sectors rely on recycled materials as important feedstocks to meet production demand and strengthen domestic supply chains. Expanding recycling can help reduce waste, support American manufacturing, and improve the long-term resilience of the U.S. economy. According to The Recycling Partnership's [2024 State of Residential Recycling Report](#), a mere 21% of recyclables are captured at the household level, among the lowest rates of any advanced economy.

We can and must do more to realize the economic, environmental, and national security benefits of recycling. If passed, the RIAA would help ensure that no community is left out of the recycling economy by establishing a pilot program designed to increase access to recycling services in rural and underserved areas. Our recycling economy can only succeed if all communities are able to participate in a system that diverts materials from landfills and returns them to productive use in our economy.

Equally important, the RCAA would establish reporting guidelines for recycling and composting programs to track performance over time and encourage continuous improvements to our recycling system. With better reporting and data collection, we can make informed recycling investments that deliver maximum value to local communities.

Together, these bipartisan bills would advance the nation's recycling capabilities, support a robust and circular economy, and help secure critical domestic supply chains. We, the undersigned organizations, support the RCAA and the RIAA and urge the Committee to promptly advance both bills to the House floor and support final passage by the full House.

Amcor	National Association of Manufacturers
American Beverage Association	National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR)
American Chemistry Council	National Confectioners Association
American Cleaning Institute	Niagara Bottling
American Forest & Paper Association	Novelis
AMERIPEN	Paper Recycling Coalition
Arconic	PepsiCo
Association of Plastic Recyclers	Personal Care Products Council
Ball Corporation	PET Resin Association (PETRA)
BASF Corporation	Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)
Biodegradable Products Institute	Primo Brands Corporation
Can Manufacturers Institute	Recology
Carton Council	Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)
Cirba Solutions	Renegade Plastics Corporation
Constellium	Rio Tinto
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California	SC Johnson
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern California	Sustainable Food Policy Alliance
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)	Tetra Pak
Foodservice Packaging Institute	The Aluminum Association
General Mills	The Kraft Heinz Company
Glass Packaging Institute	The Recycling Partnership
Indorama Ventures	U.S. Plastics Pact
International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)	Woodpack Global
International Paper	World Wildlife Fund



May 14, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Palmer, and Ranking Member Tonko:

On behalf of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), I write in advance of tomorrow's Subcommittee on Environment markup to express our strong support for H.R. 2145, the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (RIAA), and H.R. 4109, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA). We appreciate the committee's bipartisan leadership and continued commitment to strengthening America's recycling infrastructure and advancing a more circular economy.

These bills represent important and pragmatic steps toward improving recycling accessibility, enhancing data collection and reporting, and strengthening the performance and effectiveness of the nation's recycling system. Expanding recycling infrastructure and improving system coordination are essential to increasing recycling rates, supporting manufacturing, strengthening supply chains, and keeping valuable materials in productive use and out of the environment.

We also commend Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeke and Joe Neguse for their bipartisan leadership in advancing thoughtful, solutions-oriented legislation focused on improving recycling systems and expanding long-term investment and innovation.

Tomorrow's markup further reflects the growing momentum behind policies to strengthen America's recycling and circular manufacturing systems. Coupled with the STEWARD Act passing the Senate multiple times, Congress continues to recognize the importance of expanding recycling infrastructure, improving system performance, and supporting greater circularity across the manufacturing economy.

PLASTICS is also encouraged that this momentum is helping advance additional proposals, including the Recycled Materials Attribution Act (RMAA), the Recycling Technology Innovation Act (RTIA), and the Packaging and Claims Knowledge Act (PACK Act). Together, these efforts can help provide greater national consistency, support all recycling technologies, and strengthen U.S. manufacturing competitiveness.

The plastics industry supports more than 1.5 million American jobs and remains a critical component of the U.S. manufacturing economy, producing materials and products essential to healthcare, food systems, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and advanced technologies. PLASTICS and its members remain committed to working collaboratively with policymakers to strengthen recycling systems, expand circular manufacturing solutions, and advance policies that support economic growth and environmental progress.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with the committee on policies that strengthen America's recycling and manufacturing future.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Rager

Christopher L. Rager
Vice President, Government Affairs
Plastics Industry Association