

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2024

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, are concerned by the recent announcement from the Biden-Harris administration and the State Department that the U.S. will support limits on plastic production as part of the United Nations' Global Plastics Treaty. Protecting our domestic plastic manufacturing capacity is critical to ensuring American economic prosperity, strengthening critical supply chains, and protecting American national security.

Plastics are used in numerous critical applications, including healthcare, consumer electronic devices, automobiles, and military equipment. Without a domestic supply of plastic manufacturing, we risk becoming more dependent on foreign-produced plastics to meet these needs.

The U.S. plastic industry supports over one million jobs, contributes \$548 billion to the U.S. economy, and generates at least \$862 billion in tax revenue. Plastic products support more than 26% of all U.S. manufacturing. Plastics are essential to the American way of life, fueling dynamic growth across multiple industries. For every two jobs created within the plastics industry, one job is supported elsewhere in the economy, making the sector as indispensable as the material itself.

Plastics are essential to achieving our sustainability goals now and in the future. They are a key component in reducing food waste, increasing the fuel efficiency of vehicles through weight reduction, increasing the energy efficiency of homes and commercial buildings, and are a key component of green technologies.

U.S. production of plastics is much more environmentally friendly than imports from countries, like China, which produce higher emissions and more pollution. The U.S. plastic industry is already one of the most environmentally responsible compared to other major plastic-producing countries. While the U.S. produces 14% of plastics, it does not even rank among the top 30 countries for global environmental plastic waste. In fact, the U.S. is responsible for 0.43% of global mismanaged plastic waste.

While we acknowledge that more needs to be done to address plastic pollution and end-of-life challenges; We believe these challenges can be addressed through better management strategies and increased recycling.

American companies are already taking significant actions to reduce plastic waste and address the environmental impact of plastics. Many American companies are already actively working to reduce plastic use and enhance recycling efforts. Since 2017, the plastics industry has invested more than \$11 billion in the U.S. recycling infrastructure.

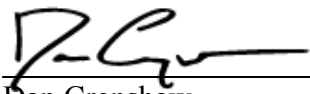
This shift in position would have massive repercussions for the U.S. plastics industry and could lead to untold costs in economic activity. In most cases, replacing plastics with alternative materials in everyday consumer goods is economically unfeasible. The environmental costs of alternatives are estimated to be almost four times that of plastics.

The proposed framework is impractical and presents serious legal concerns. Limitations on plastic production come with numerous logistical and legal issues, making enforcement challenging. As a result, our inability to uphold this agreement may impact our standing as a dependable participant in global environmental initiatives. The Biden administration's decision is not a victory for the environment but rather a case of regulators overstepping their mandates to promote partisan interests at the expense of millions of hardworking Americans.

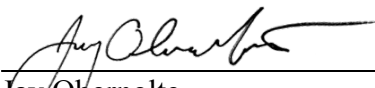
Through this shift, the U.S. has not only jeopardized its diplomatic reputation by potentially agreeing to commitments that it knows it cannot uphold but also has significantly weakened its negotiating position for the remainder of the negotiations.

For these reasons, we urge the administration to reverse course and return to a position that focuses on plastic management and increased sustainability through recycling.


Sincerely,




Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



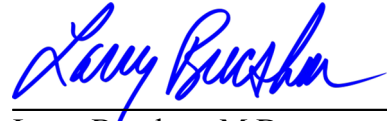
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



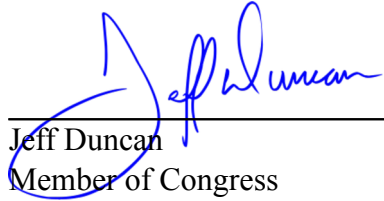
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



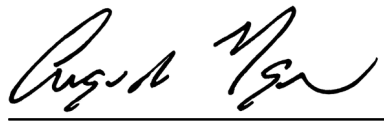
Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



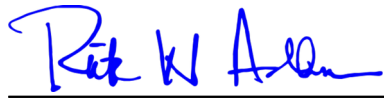
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



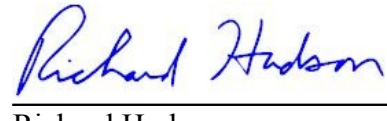
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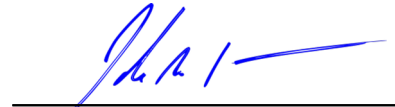
H. Morgan Griffith
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