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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reform: Addressing America's Plastic Waste Crisis: March 4th U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing

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The Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce ("Subcommittee") held a March 4th hearing titled:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reform: Addressing America's Plastic Waste Crisis ("Hearing")

The *Hearing* focused on issues relating to recycling and waste management in the United States.

A Subcommittee Memorandum ("Memorandum") prepared prior to the *Hearing* addressed:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency regulation of household, industrial, and manufacturing wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Climate Impacts of Plastics and Recycling
- Recycling and Waste Management in the United States
- Global Challenges
- United States Challenges

The Memorandum describes its view on possible policy solutions or mechanisms as including:

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR), which shifts the cost of managing postconsumer waste away from municipalities and onto producers;
- Container deposit programs, in which a small fee for packaging is levied at the point of purchase and refunded to the consumer upon return of the original material;
- Post-consumer recycled (PCR) content requirements, which require a minimum amount of recycled material in specified products;
- Fees or taxes on single-use items or certain materials;
- Bans or restrictions on single-use items or certain materials;
- Infrastructure investments to improve waste sorting and processing; and
- Improved labeling and education to clarify recycling rules.

Witnesses testifying at the Hearing included:

Jenna Jambeck, Ph.D.

Professor, College of Engineering

University of Georgia

Enrique C. Zaldivar, P.E.

General Manager, Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment Bureau

City of Los Angeles

Lynn Hoffman

Co-President

Eureka Recycling

Denise Patel

U.S. Program Director

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

Keith Christman

Managing Director, Plastic Markets

American Chemistry Council

William H. Johnson

Chief Lobbyist

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

A copy of the Memorandum and a link to the witnesses' written statements can be found [here](#).