

2017 PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AGENDA

The [Plastics Industry Association](#) (PLASTICS) is a forward-thinking association that believes in **plastics' ability to improve lives**. We represent the 3rd largest manufacturing sector in the United States employing nearly a million workers in every state and congressional district. We care deeply about issues that impact our workforce, our customers and our environment and we hope you will call on us as a resource throughout the 115th Congress.

On behalf of our members, we invest a great deal of time and resources working to achieve the following:

PLASTICS INDUSTRY PRIORITIES:

- **A Safe Environment for our Workforce** – Our employees' health and safety is a huge priority for our industry and a key focus for many of the programs and committees that make up PLASTICS. A few examples:
 - Our [Machinery Safety Standards Committee](#) is an **accredited ANSI standards developer**. They also work with international standards-setting bodies on global safety issues.
 - Our [Environment, Health and Safety Committee](#) **develops tools, shares information and best practices** on worker health and safety, environmental and product regulatory matters.
 - Each year, we **recognize exemplary safety records** in plastic facilities across the country as part of our [Safety, Statistics and Awards Program](#).
 - We **promote the science and safe handling** of specialty chemicals such as organic peroxides in our [Organic Peroxide Producers Safety Division](#).
- **Safer Products** – Plastics touch our lives in so many different ways. Plastic packaging keeps our [food fresh](#) and safe. Plastics cover our wires and electronic devices, and deliver medicine and medical solutions (including devices that can be implanted right into our bodies). Plastics reduce weight in [autos](#), farm and heavy construction machinery and offers unique benefits in both commercial and residential [buildings](#).

The plastics industry relies on an army of scientists, researchers, quality control specialists and chemical engineers to ensure that our products are safe. As an association, we bring together industry experts, regulatory bodies, international agencies and other entities whose primary goal is product safety. For example:

- Our [Material Supplier Council](#) and other relevant committees **bring the industry together with regulators such as the EPA and Department of Transportation** on key materials and transport issues. The Council advocates for science-based assessment actively collaborating on the retirement of chemicals of concern.
- Our [Food, Drug and Cosmetic Packaging Materials Committee](#) as well as our [Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Applications Committee](#) **connect industry experts with key agencies** such as the Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Pharmacopeia, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and counterpart agencies around the world to assure safe medical and food contact and effective food preservation.
- Our [Wire and Cable Section](#) commissions fact finding reports from third-party professionals such as Underwriters Laboratory, to **define and codify safe levels** of power over LAN cabling. The 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC) reflects their commitment to safe management of the existing infrastructure.
- **Sustainable Management of Materials** – Plastics are the most [sustainable material](#) for most applications. They require fewer resources and less energy to produce. They promote energy efficiency (think lightweight cars and building materials). They protect embodied energy of products. And, at the end of their intended use, plastics can be recycled into new products or converted back into usable energy sources. Our industry efforts include:
 - **Promoting** the use of [recycled plastics](#) in new products.
 - **Educating** members on how to recycle more and make their products easier for consumers to recycle.
 - **Demonstrating** viable business models for collecting and recycling different types of plastic materials from locations like offices, [hospitals](#), malls and automobile graveyards.
 - **Incentivizing** companies to eliminate waste and increase recycling.
 - **Measuring** the amount of wasted recyclable plastic material.
 - **Collaborating** with organizations like the **Recycling Partnership**, **Keep America Beautiful**, The **Sustainable Packaging Coalition**, the Environmental Protection Agency's Trash-Free Waters Program and the **Ocean Conservancy** to fight pollution and make recycling easier and more available.
 - **Sharing best practices** for waste management with other countries, particularly rapidly emerging economies in Southeast Asia, through [global coalitions](#).

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP:

As far as **Congress** goes, you can do so much to create jobs – both directly and indirectly for hard working Americans who want a better life for themselves and their families. We urge you to focus on **growth** and **innovation**, specifically policies that make this country one where:

- Business investment is rewarded through the **tax code**;
- Government **regulations** are truly focused on shared values of health, safety and environmental protection;
- **Trade policy** strengthens businesses and allows them to thrive both at home and abroad.

From the technological advancements we enable to the possibilities we create, PLASTICS is dedicated to helping our members shape the future and [make a positive impact every day](#). The attached [link](#) highlights key plastics industry statistics and contributions to the U.S. economy.

Over the next several months, you will see more of both me and my staff as we carry our message to Capitol Hill. On July 26th, our members will be in town to tell you more about their innovative businesses and the hardworking Americans that they employ. We hope you will take time to meet with them. We will be reaching out directly next month to schedule meetings for our [Plastics Day on Capitol Hill](#). In the meantime, please contact me or any of our [staff experts](#).

Together with our members, we look forward to working with you on our goals to create a **better industry** and a **better world**.

Bill Carteaux
Chairman and CEO
Plastics Industry Association