



National Recycling Coalition Supports Legislation to “Break Free From Plastic Pollution”

ERIE, CO FEB 28, 2020 -- The landmark legislation known as the “Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020” introduced by U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D-CA, comes at a time when our nation is in the midst of the most significant waste and plastic pollution crisis of our time. While there are often differences of opinion on the details of any proposed legislation, there can be no debate that our nation must stand together to make this legislation a reality.

Written to address some of the most common forms of plastic pollution, the bill holds large corporations accountable for waste and pollution and will save taxpayers billions of dollars. “The bill is directly aligned with our mission and several of our key policies, and that is why we support it”, said David Keeling, President of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC). The public has long shouldered the burden of costs of dealing with waste and pollution. This bill begins to shift responsibility from consumers and asks corporations to pay their fair share.

The NRC supports container deposits (aka bottle bills) because they are a proven way to significantly increase recovery of beverage containers and reduce litter and plastic pollution. While only ten states have bottle bills, those states recycle roughly half of all the beverage containers recovered in the US. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that a national bottle bill could increase our current 33% beverage container recovery rate up to 80%. Doing so could support 90,000 jobs in recycling, reduce litter and harmful marine debris, and result in savings of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars currently spent on clean-up efforts for our roads and public spaces.

For too long we have attempted small fixes to our individual recycling programs and as a result our recycling system is operating at a failing grade level. We need the intestinal and intellectual fortitude to implement a comprehensive recycling policy that will truly allow us to move closer to zero waste and a circular economy. The Break Free From Plastic Act will do this. Doing so would actually be good for business and the environment.

The National Recycling Coalition is proud of the bill's sponsors and encourages Senators and Representatives from around the nation to join the growing list of over thirty co-sponsors.

Instead of watching our recycling rates drop, we should be doing everything we can to reduce emissions and eliminate waste in our resource-constrained world. Given the current state of our infrastructure and the projected growth in production of virgin materials, we need bold policy with systemic solutions and economic drivers to redirect our path towards sustainable resource management.

Mr. Keeling added, "Our current system of resource management has been a good start, but for the sake of our climate, our environment, and our public spaces, we need to do more, and we need to do it better. A unified national effort like that called for by the "Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020" is a step in the right direction."

The [National Recycling Coalition](#) is a non-profit organization that is focused on the promotion and enhancement of recycling in the United States. We are 23-affiliated recycling organizations strong, and have a network of more than 6,000 members that extends across waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. The organization works to maintain a prosperous and productive recycling system that is committed to the conservation of natural resources, as well as accelerate sustainable approaches to the management of discarded materials.