



The Association of Plastic Recyclers



FOODSERVICE PACKAGING INSTITUTE®



April 6, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
H-204 US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: **SUPPORT FOR RECYCLING within INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

We are a broad collection of associations and organizations representing public and private sector industry working with all levels of government to address our nation's solid waste management challenges. We believe strongly that a federal investment targeting recycling and recycled materials is critical to America's economic success, will create jobs throughout the United States, and yield environmental benefits.

Recycling reduces the volume of material that otherwise ends up in U.S. landfills, wasting a valuable feedstock for American manufacturing that supports good-quality jobs here in the U.S. In addition, it helps

reduce energy use and reduce our dependence on imported materials. The advances in recycling technology and material conversion technologies make 21<sup>st</sup> century recycling efforts much different than in decades past, and we need to continue to drive innovation.

Recent decisions by China to reduce or end the importation of scrap material from other nations, are disrupting recycling programs throughout the United States, and make it more critical that we make new investments in domestic recycling capacity. Without significant investment in such capacity, millions more tons of otherwise recoverable and recyclable material will be lost to landfills each year.

We encourage you to develop and advance an infrastructure investment package that includes and expands upon opportunities in solid waste management and recycling to improve our national infrastructure, promote sustainable development and create jobs. Together, we urge support for including the following concepts in any federal infrastructure legislation that is developed:

- Retrofitting Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) with advanced sorting equipment that can identify and properly handle a wider range of packaging forms, including flexible film and smaller items made of otherwise recyclable material
- Quicker permitting of MRFs, plastics recycling facilities, and conversion technology facilities that create valuable chemicals and energy products
- Increased use of recycled material in infrastructure products where appropriate
- Broadened use of private activity bonds for recycling projects
- Incentive grants for state and local governments to expand curbside recycling options and the range of materials collected - Providing access to curbside recycling to all U.S. residents (less than half of Americans presently have the same level of access to curbside recycling as trash collection) will standardize the types of material that can be and are recovered across the country.
- Education and training to improve understanding of what is recyclable, and to promote the manufacturing jobs aspect of the recycling process will support American jobs, the U.S. economy and the environment - Those jobs are created when recycling is picked up at the curb, when it's taken to a facility to sort it out into metals, plastics and paper and when those materials are turned into something new.

We look forward to discussing this important matter with you and your staff at your earliest possible convenience. You may contact Scott DeFife, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Plastics Industry Association, at [SDefife@plasticsindustry.org](mailto:SDefife@plasticsindustry.org) or 202-974-5267.

Sincerely,

Plastics Industry Association  
American Chemistry Council  
Association of Plastics Recyclers  
Carpet America Recovery Effort  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Foodservice Packaging Institute  
GreenBlue  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
PAC Packaging Consortium  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
The Recycling Partnership

# U.S. RECYCLING: BUILDING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

## Recycling Creates U.S. Jobs

In one year, recycling and reuse in the United States accounted for:

- 757,000 jobs
- \$36.6 billion in wages
- \$6.7 billion in tax revenues

*2016 EPA Recycling Economic Information Report*

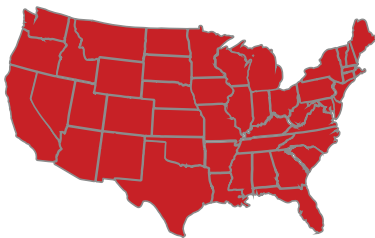


## What America Needs Now



- Investment in advanced sorting equipment
- Streamlined permitting
- More recycled materials in infrastructure products
- Private activity bonds for recycling projects
- Grants for curbside recycling
- Recycling education and training

## Bring Recycling Home



**37 Million Tons:**  
U.S. recyclables  
exported in 2016



**16.2 Million Tons:**  
U.S. recyclables imported  
by China in 2016

*U.S. Census Bureau/U.S. International Trade Commission*