



# STOP THE PLASTIC TAX

KEEP EVERYDAY GOODS AFFORDABLE

## Proposed Plastic Excise Tax Will Hurt U.S. Economy and Harm Environment

Congress is considering a proposal to levy an excise tax of 20 cents per pound on plastic resins produced in the United States. Such a tax would not meaningfully curb plastic waste, but would raise prices on almost everything you buy, cost American jobs, favor Chinese imports, and result in more greenhouse gas emissions.

### Environmental Damage

- Increase the price of plastic-reliant products ranging from wind turbines to solar panels and electric vehicles.
- Incentivize alternative materials that use more resources and require more energy to transport.
  - A 2020 Imperial College study found if all plastic bottles were replaced with glass, it would be equivalent to adding 22 large coal-fired power plants.
  - A 2016 Trucost study estimated swapping plastics for identified alternatives in consumer packaging and products would increase environmental costs to climate, oceans, human health, and ecosystems from \$139 billion to \$533 billion.
- Shift production of finished plastic products to China and other countries that produce plastics less efficiently and with more emissions. 29% of U.S. plastic resin production is exported.

### Economic Damage

- Add \$120 billion over 10 years in excess cost on items consumers use every day, fueling inflation.
- Would increase the cost of plastic used in everyday products by up to 26%.
- Act as a regressive tax, especially harming Americans who can least afford price increases on basic necessities.
- Jeopardize nearly 90,000 direct and indirect jobs created and supported by the plastics industry while at the same time benefiting foreign competitors that do not apply the same labor and environmental standards as companies in the United States.
- Increase imports of finished plastic products, mostly from China, resulting in an estimated harm to the trade balance of at least \$12 billion.

# Products Impacted by a Plastic Tax



**BIKE  
HELMETS**



**AIR BAGS**



**CAR SEATS**



**DIAPERS**



**PACKAGED  
MEATS &  
PRODUCE**



**ELECTRONICS**



**FOOD  
CONTAINERS**



**SOLAR  
PANELS**



**FIBER OPTIC  
CABLES**



**SHOES**



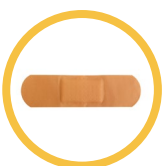
**JUGS &  
BOTTLES**



**CONSTRUCTION  
MATERIALS**



**TOYS**



**PERSONAL  
CARE**



**TOILETRIES**



**AND  
MANY  
MORE**

**Most troubling, this tax would not be limited to addressing the plastic waste problem in the U.S. and could be diverted to fund other programs that Congress chooses.**

That doesn't mean Congress should do nothing to address the plastic waste issue. America's plastic makers have proposed 5 Actions for Sustainable Change that Congress can take to lay the groundwork for solving the plastic waste issue and advancing a circular economy. They are:

- 1** Require all plastic packaging to include at least 30% recycled plastic by 2030.
- 2** Develop a modern regulatory system to enable rapid scaling of advanced recycling and also grow mechanical recycling.
- 3** Create a national framework for plastics recycling that includes a national recycling standard to help local communities recycle better by engaging the entire plastics value chain.
- 4** Engage the National Academy of Sciences to study greenhouse gas emissions from all materials, including plastics, to guide policy.
- 5** Establish an American-designed producer responsibility system to help increase recycling access, education, and outreach.