

Save Our Seas 2.0 Act

[Public Law 116–224]

[As Amended Through P.L. 119–65, Enacted December 26, 2025]

AN ACT To improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) [33 U.S.C. 4201 note] **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Save Our Seas 2.0 Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Marine Debris Act

Sec. 101. Amendments to the Marine Debris Act.

Subtitle B—Marine Debris Foundation

Sec. 111. Establishment and purposes of Foundation.
Sec. 112. Board of Directors of the Foundation.
Sec. 113. Rights and obligations of the Foundation.
Sec. 114. Administrative services and support.
Sec. 115. Volunteer status.
Sec. 116. Report requirements; petition of attorney general for equitable relief.
Sec. 117. United States release from liability.
Sec. 118. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 119. Termination of authority.

Subtitle C—Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations

Sec. 121. Definitions.
Sec. 122. Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations.
Sec. 123. Agreement with the Marine Debris Foundation.
Sec. 124. Judges.
Sec. 125. Report to Congress.
Sec. 126. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 127. Termination of authority.

Subtitle D—Studies, Pilot Projects, and Reports

Sec. 131. Report on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste.
Sec. 132. Report on microfiber pollution.
Sec. 133. Study on United States plastic pollution data.
Sec. 134. Study on mass balance methodologies to certify circular polymers.
Sec. 135. Report on sources and impacts of derelict fishing gear.
Sec. 136. Expansion of derelict vessel recycling.
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TITLE II—ENHANCED GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS

Sec. 201. Statement of policy on international cooperation to combat marine debris.

- Sec. 202. Prioritization of efforts and assistance to combat marine debris and improve plastic waste management.
- Sec. 203. United States leadership in international fora.
- Sec. 204. Enhancing international outreach and partnership of United States agencies involved in marine debris activities.
- Sec. 205. Negotiation of new international agreements.
- Sec. 206. Consideration of marine debris in negotiating international agreements.

TITLE III—IMPROVING DOMESTIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO PREVENT MARINE DEBRIS

- Sec. 301. Strategy for improving post-consumer materials management and water management.
- Sec. 302. Grant programs.
- Sec. 303. Study on repurposing plastic waste in infrastructure.
- Sec. 304. Study on effects of microplastics in food supplies and sources of drinking water.
- Sec. 305. Report on eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials.
- Sec. 306. Report on economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets for recycled plastics.
- Sec. 307. Report on minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.

SEC. 2. [33 U.S.C. 4201 note] DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term “circular economy” means an economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that—

(A) are restorative or regenerative by design;

(B) enable resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest values for as long as possible; and

(C) aim for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models).

(2) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “EPA Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), without regard to capitalization.

(4) INTERAGENCY MARINE DEBRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The term “Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee” means the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954).

(5) MARINE DEBRIS.—The term “marine debris” has the meaning given that term in section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956).

(6) MARINE DEBRIS EVENT.—The term “marine debris event” means an event or related events that affects or may imminently affect the United States involving—

(A) marine debris caused by a natural event, including a tsunami, flood, landslide, hurricane, or other natural source;

(B) distinct, nonrecurring marine debris, including derelict vessel groundings and container spills, that have

immediate or long-term impacts on habitats with high ecological, economic, or human-use values; or

(C) marine debris caused by an intentional or grossly negligent act or acts that causes substantial economic or environmental harm.

(7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(8) POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.—The term “post-consumer materials management” means the systems, operation, supervision, and long-term management of processes and equipment used for post-use material (including packaging, goods, products, and other materials), including—

(A) collection;

(B) transport;

(C) safe disposal of waste that cannot be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, or refurbished; and

(D) systems and processes related to post-use materials that can be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, or refurbished.

(9) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) a State;

(B) an Indian Tribe;

(C) the District of Columbia;

(D) a territory or possession of the United States; or

(E) any political subdivision of an entity described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(10) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TITLE I—COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Marine Debris Act

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS ACT.

The Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.) is amended—

(1) **[33 U.S.C. 1951]** in section 2 by striking “marine environment,” and inserting “marine environment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of other countries),”;

(2) **[33 U.S.C. 1958]** in section 9(a)—

(A) by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “5 percent” and inserting “7 percent”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 10. [33 U.S.C. 1959] PRIORITIZATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN EXISTING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

“In carrying out any relevant innovation and entrepreneurship programs that improve the innovation, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Marine Debris Program established under section 3 without undermining the purpose for which such program was established, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall prioritize efforts to combat marine debris, including by—

“(1) increasing innovation in methods and the effectiveness of efforts to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris; and

“(2) addressing the impacts of marine debris on—

“(A) the economy of the United States;

“(B) the marine environment; and

“(C) navigation safety. ”.

【Sections 3(a) and 4(a) of Public Law 119-65 transferred subtitles B and C of this title to the Marine Debris Act.】

Subtitle D—Studies, Pilot Projects, and Reports

SEC. 131. REPORT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE USES OF PLASTIC WASTE.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee shall submit to Congress a report on innovative uses for plastic waste in consumer products.

SEC. 132. REPORT ON MICROFIBER POLLUTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee shall submit to Congress a report on microfiber pollution that includes—

(1) a definition of microfiber;

(2) an assessment of the sources, prevalence, and causes of microfiber pollution;

(3) a recommendation for a standardized methodology to measure and estimate the prevalence of microfiber pollution;

(4) recommendations for reducing microfiber pollution; and

(5) a plan for how Federal agencies, in partnership with other stakeholders, can lead on opportunities to reduce microfiber pollution during the 5-year period beginning on such date of enactment.

SEC. 133. STUDY ON UNITED STATES PLASTIC POLLUTION DATA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary, in consultation with the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Interior, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

(1) An evaluation of United States contributions to global ocean plastic waste, including types, sources, and geographic variations.

(2) An assessment of the prevalence of marine debris and mismanaged plastic waste in saltwater and freshwater United States navigable waterways and tributaries.

(3) An examination of the import and export of plastic waste to and from the United States, including the destinations of the exported plastic waste and the waste management infrastructure and environmental conditions of these locations.

(4) Potential means to reduce United States contributions to global ocean plastic waste.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies;

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry; and

(3) recommendations on the potential value of a national marine debris tracking and monitoring system and how such a system might be designed and implemented.

SEC. 134. STUDY ON MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGIES TO CERTIFY CIRCULAR POLYMERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct a study of available mass balance methodologies that are or could be readily standardized to certify circular polymers.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

(1) an identification and assessment of existing mass balance methodologies, standards, and certification systems that are or may be applicable to supply chain sustainability of polymers, considering the full life cycle of the polymer, and including an examination of—

(A) the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification; and

(B) the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials;

(2) an assessment of the environmental impacts of the full lifecycle of circular polymers, including impacts on climate change; and

(3) an assessment of any legal or regulatory barriers to developing a standard and certification system for circular polymers.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CIRCULAR POLYMERS.**—The term “circular polymers” means polymers that can be reused multiple times or converted into a new, higher-quality product.

(2) **MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGY.**—The term “mass balance methodology” means the method of chain of custody accounting designed to track the exact total amount of certain content in products or materials through the production system

and to ensure an appropriate allocation of this content in the finished goods based on auditable bookkeeping.

SEC. 135. REPORT ON SOURCES AND IMPACTS OF DERELICT FISHING GEAR.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

- (1) an analysis of the scale of fishing gear losses by domestic and foreign fisheries, including—
 - (A) how the amount of gear lost varies among—
 - (i) domestic and foreign fisheries;
 - (ii) types of fishing gear; and
 - (iii) methods of fishing;
 - (B) how lost fishing gear is transported by ocean currents; and
 - (C) common reasons fishing gear is lost;
- (2) an evaluation of the ecological, human health, and maritime safety impacts of derelict fishing gear, and how those impacts vary across—
 - (A) types of fishing gear;
 - (B) materials used to construct fishing gear; and
 - (C) geographic location;
- (3) recommendations on management measures—
 - (A) to prevent fishing gear losses; and
 - (B) to reduce the impacts of lost fishing gear;
- (4) an assessment of the cost of implementing such management measures; and
- (5) an assessment of the impact of fishing gear loss attributable to foreign countries.

SEC. 136. EXPANSION OF DERELICT VESSEL RECYCLING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary and the EPA Administrator shall jointly conduct a study to determine the feasibility of developing a nationwide derelict vessel recycling program—

- (1) using as a model the fiberglass boat recycling program from the pilot project in Rhode Island led by Rhode Island Sea Grant and its partners; and
- (2) including, if possible, recycling of vessels made from materials other than fiberglass.

SEC. 137. [33 U.S.C. 4251] INCENTIVE FOR FISHERMEN TO COLLECT AND DISPOSE OF PLASTIC FOUND AT SEA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing incentives, such as grants, to fishermen based in the United States who incidentally capture marine debris while at sea—

- (1) to track or keep the debris on board; and
- (2) to dispose of the debris properly on land.

(b) **SUPPORT FOR COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF DERELICT GEAR.**—The Under Secretary shall encourage United States efforts, such as the Fishing for Energy net disposal program, that support—

- (1) collection and removal of derelict fishing gear and other fishing waste;

- (2) disposal or recycling of such gear and waste; and
- (3) prevention of the loss of such gear.

TITLE II—ENHANCED GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS

SEC. 201. [33 U.S.C. 4261] STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

- (1) to increase knowledge and raise awareness about—
 - (A) the linkages between the sources of plastic waste, mismanaged waste and post-consumer materials, and marine debris; and
 - (B) the upstream and downstream causes and effects of plastic waste, mismanaged waste and post-consumer materials, and marine debris on marine environments, marine wildlife, human health, and economic development;
- (2) to support—
 - (A) strengthening systems for reducing the generation of plastic waste and recovering, managing, reusing, and recycling plastic waste, marine debris, and microfiber pollution in the world's oceans, emphasizing upstream post-consumer materials management solutions—
 - (i) to decrease plastic waste at its source; and
 - (ii) to prevent leakage of plastic waste into the environment;
 - (B) advancing the utilization and availability of safe and affordable reusable alternatives to disposable plastic products in commerce, to the extent practicable, and with consideration for the potential impacts of such alternatives, and other efforts to prevent marine debris;
 - (C) deployment of and access to advanced technologies to capture value from post-consumer materials and municipal solid waste streams through mechanical and other recycling systems;
 - (D) access to information on best practices in post-consumer materials management, options for post-consumer materials management systems financing, and options for participating in public-private partnerships; and
 - (E) implementation of management measures to reduce derelict fishing gear, the loss of fishing gear, and other sources of pollution generated from marine activities and to increase proper disposal and recycling of fishing gear; and
- (3) to work cooperatively with international partners—
 - (A) on establishing—

(i) measurable targets for reducing marine debris, lost fishing gear, and plastic waste from all sources; and

(ii) action plans to achieve those targets with a mechanism to provide regular reporting;

(B) to promote consumer education, awareness, and outreach to prevent marine debris;

(C) to reduce marine debris by improving advance planning for marine debris events and responses to such events; and

(D) to share best practices in post-consumer materials management systems to prevent the entry of plastic waste into the environment.

SEC. 202. [33 U.S.C. 4262] PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS AND IMPROVE PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, and the officials specified in subsection (b)—

(1) lead and coordinate efforts to implement the policy described in section 201; and

(2) develop strategies and implement programs that prioritize engagement and cooperation with foreign governments, subnational and local stakeholders, and the private sector to expedite efforts and assistance in foreign countries—

(A) to partner with, encourage, advise and facilitate national and subnational governments on the development and execution, where practicable, of national projects, programs and initiatives to—

(i) improve the capacity, security, and standards of operations of post-consumer materials management systems;

(ii) monitor and track how well post-consumer materials management systems are functioning nationwide, based on uniform and transparent standards developed in cooperation with municipal, industrial, and civil society stakeholders;

(iii) identify the operational challenges of post-consumer materials management systems and develop policy and programmatic solutions;

(iv) end intentional or unintentional incentives for municipalities, industries, and individuals to improperly dispose of plastic waste; and

(v) conduct outreach campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of proper waste disposal and the reduction of plastic waste;

(B) to facilitate the involvement of municipalities and industries in improving solid waste reduction, collection, disposal, and reuse and recycling projects, programs, and initiatives;

(C) to partner with and provide technical assistance to investors, and national and local institutions, including private sector actors, to develop new business opportuni-

ties and solutions to specifically reduce plastic waste and expand solid waste and post-consumer materials management best practices in foreign countries by—

(i) maximizing the number of people and businesses, in both rural and urban communities, receiving reliable solid waste and post-consumer materials management services;

(ii) improving and expanding the capacity of foreign industries to responsibly employ post-consumer materials management practices;

(iii) improving and expanding the capacity and transparency of tracking mechanisms for marine debris to reduce the impacts on the marine environment;

(iv) eliminating incentives that undermine responsible post-consumer materials management practices and lead to improper waste disposal practices and leakage;

(v) building the capacity of countries—

(I) to reduce, monitor, regulate, and manage waste, post-consumer materials and plastic waste, and pollution appropriately and transparently, including imports of plastic waste from the United States and other countries;

(II) to encourage private investment in post-consumer materials management and reduction; and

(III) to encourage private investment, grow opportunities, and develop markets for recyclable, reusable, and repurposed plastic waste and post-consumer materials, and products with high levels of recycled plastic content, at both national and local levels; and

(vi) promoting safe and affordable reusable alternatives to disposable plastic products, to the extent practicable; and

(D) to research, identify, and facilitate opportunities to promote collection and proper disposal of damaged or derelict fishing gear.

(b) OFFICIALS SPECIFIED.—The officials specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The United States Trade Representative.

(2) The Under Secretary.

(3) The EPA Administrator.

(4) The Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

(5) The President and the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation or the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate.

(6) The Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

(7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard, with respect to pollution from ships.

(8) The heads of such other agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(c) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the officials specified in subsection (b) shall prioritize assistance to countries with, and regional organizations in regions with—

- (1) rapidly developing economies; and
- (2) rivers and coastal areas that are the most severe sources of marine debris, as identified by the best available science.

(d) **EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.**—In prioritizing and expediting efforts and assistance under this section, the officials specified in subsection (b) shall use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of guarantees and assistance in achieving the policy described in section 201.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the modification of or the imposition of limits on the portfolios of any agency or institution led by an official specified in subsection (b).

SEC. 203. [33 U.S.C. 4263] UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

In implementing the policy described in section 201, the President shall direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies and conferences (including the United Nations Environment Programme, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Group of 7, the Group of 20, the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), and the Our Ocean Conference) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to promote investment in well-designed post-consumer materials management and plastic waste elimination and mitigation projects and services that increase access to safe post-consumer materials management and mitigation services, in partnership with the private sector and consistent with the constraints of other countries;

(2) address the post-consumer materials management needs of individuals and communities where access to municipal post-consumer materials management services is historically impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector—

(A) to increase access to solid waste and post-consumer materials management services;

(B) to utilize safe and affordable alternatives to disposable plastic products, to the extent practicable;

(C) to encourage and incentivize the use of recycled content; and

(D) to grow economic opportunities and develop markets for recyclable, compostable, reusable, and repurposed plastic waste materials and post-consumer materials and other efforts that support the circular economy;

(4) provide technical assistance to foreign regulatory authorities and governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially-viable projects related to—

- (A) post-consumer materials management;
- (B) the use of safe and affordable alternatives to disposable plastic products; or
- (C) beneficial reuse of solid waste, plastic waste, post-consumer materials, plastic products, and refuse;
- (5) use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects; and
- (6) engage international partners in an existing multilateral forum (or, if necessary, establish through an international agreement a new multilateral forum) to improve global cooperation on—
 - (A) creating tangible metrics for evaluating efforts to reduce plastic waste and marine debris;
 - (B) developing and implementing best practices at the national and subnational levels of foreign countries, particularly countries with little to no solid waste or post-consumer materials management systems, facilities, or policies in place for—
 - (i) collecting, disposing, recycling, and reusing plastic waste and post-consumer materials, including building capacity for improving post-consumer materials management; and
 - (ii) integrating alternatives to disposable plastic products, to the extent practicable;
 - (C) encouraging the development of standards and practices, and increasing recycled content percentage requirements for disposable plastic products;
 - (D) integrating tracking and monitoring systems into post-consumer materials management systems;
 - (E) fostering research to improve scientific understanding of—
 - (i) how microfibers and microplastics may affect marine ecosystems, human health and safety, and maritime activities;
 - (ii) changes in the amount and regional concentrations of plastic waste in the ocean, based on scientific modeling and forecasting;
 - (iii) the role rivers, streams, and other inland waterways play in serving as conduits for mismanaged waste traveling from land to the ocean;
 - (iv) effective means to eliminate present and future leakages of plastic waste into the environment; and
 - (v) other related areas of research the United States representatives deem necessary;
 - (F) encouraging the World Bank and other international finance organizations to prioritize efforts to reduce plastic waste and combat marine debris;
 - (G) collaborating on technological advances in post-consumer materials management and recycled plastics;
 - (H) growing economic opportunities and developing markets for recyclable, compostable, reusable, and repurposed plastic waste and post-consumer materials and other efforts that support the circular economy; and

(I) advising foreign countries, at both the national and subnational levels, on the development and execution of regulatory policies, services, including recycling and reuse of plastic, and laws pertaining to reducing the creation and the collection and safe management of—

- (i) solid waste;
- (ii) post-consumer materials;
- (iii) plastic waste; and
- (iv) marine debris.

SEC. 204. [33 U.S.C. 4264] ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES INVOLVED IN MARINE DEBRIS ACTIVITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress recognizes the success of the marine debris program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Trash-Free Waters program of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF EFFORTS TO BUILD FOREIGN PARTNERSHIPS.—The Under Secretary and the EPA Administrator shall work with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to build partnerships, as appropriate, with the governments of foreign countries and to support international efforts to combat marine debris.

SEC. 205. NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report—

- (1) assessing the potential for negotiating new international agreements or creating a new international forum to reduce land-based sources of marine debris and derelict fishing gear, consistent with section 203;
- (2) describing the provisions that could be included in such agreements; and
- (3) assessing potential parties to such agreements.

SEC. 206. [33 U.S.C. 4265] CONSIDERATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

In negotiating any relevant international agreement with any country or countries after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, as appropriate—

- (1) consider the impact of land-based sources of plastic waste and other solid waste from that country on the marine and aquatic environment; and
- (2) ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to eliminate land-based sources of plastic waste and other solid waste from that country that impact the marine and aquatic environment.

TITLE III—IMPROVING DOMESTIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO PREVENT MARINE DEBRIS

SEC. 301. [33 U.S.C. 4281] STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall, in consultation with stakeholders, develop a strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure for the purpose of reducing plastic waste and other post-consumer materials in waterways and oceans.

(b) **RELEASE.**—On development of the strategy under subsection (a), the EPA Administrator shall—

- (1) distribute the strategy to States; and
- (2) make the strategy publicly available, including for use by—
 - (A) for-profit private entities involved in post-consumer materials management; and
 - (B) other nongovernmental entities.

SEC. 302. [33 U.S.C. 4282] GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) **POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The EPA Administrator may provide grants to States to implement the strategy developed under section 301(a) and—

- (A) to support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs; and
- (B) to assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

(2) **APPLICATIONS.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), the applicant State shall submit to the EPA Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the EPA Administrator may require.

(3) **CONTENTS OF APPLICATIONS.**—In developing application requirements, the EPA Administrator shall consider requesting that a State applicant provide—

- (A) a description of—
 - (i) the project or projects to be carried out using grant funds; and
 - (ii) how the project or projects would result in the generation of less plastic waste;
- (B) a description of how the funds will support disadvantaged communities; and
- (C) an explanation of any limitations, such as flow control measures, that restrict access to reusable or recyclable materials.

(4) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than January 1, 2023, the EPA Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Envi-

ronment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) a description of the activities carried out under this subsection;

(B) estimates as to how much plastic waste was prevented from entering the oceans and other waterways as a result of activities funded pursuant to this subsection; and

(C) a recommendation on the utility of evolving the grant program into a new waste management State revolving fund.

(b) DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator may provide competitive grants to units of local government, Indian Tribes, and public water systems (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)) to support improvements in reducing and removing plastic waste and post-consumer materials, including microplastics and microfibers, from drinking water or sources of drinking water, including planning, design, construction, technical assistance, and planning support for operational adjustments.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall submit to the EPA Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the EPA Administrator may require.

(c) WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator may provide grants to municipalities (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)) or Indian Tribes that own and operate treatment works (as such term is defined in section 212 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)) for the construction of improvements to reduce and remove plastic waste and post-consumer materials, including microplastics and microfibers, from wastewater.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall submit to the EPA Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the EPA Administrator may require.

(d) TRASH-FREE WATERS GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator may provide grants to units of local government, Indian Tribes, and non-profit organizations—

(A) to support projects to reduce the quantity of solid waste in bodies of water by reducing the quantity of waste at the source, including through anti-litter initiatives;

(B) to enforce local post-consumer materials management ordinances;

(C) to implement State or local policies relating to solid waste;

(D) to capture post-consumer materials at stormwater inlets, at stormwater outfalls, or in bodies of water;

(E) to provide education and outreach about post-consumer materials movement and reduction; and

(F) to monitor or model flows of post-consumer materials, including monitoring or modeling a reduction in trash as a result of the implementation of best management practices for the reduction of plastic waste and other post-consumer materials in sources of drinking water.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall submit to the EPA Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the EPA Administrator may require.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator shall ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed on projects funded directly, or assisted in whole or in part, by a grant established by this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40, United States Code.

(2) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor standards specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1388) shall apply to the construction of a project carried out, in whole or in part, with assistance made available under this section in the same manner as the requirements of such section apply with respect to funds made available pursuant to title VI of such Act.

(f) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section may not be used (directly or indirectly) as a source of payment (in whole or in part) of, or security for, an obligation the interest on which is excluded from gross income under section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the program described subsection (a), \$55,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025; and

(2) for each of the programs described subsections (b), (c), and (d), \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 303. STUDY ON REPURPOSING PLASTIC WASTE IN INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) and the EPA Administrator shall jointly enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will—

- (1) conduct a study on the uses of plastic waste in infrastructure; and
- (2) as part of the study under paragraph (1)—
 - (A) identify domestic and international examples of—
 - (i) the use of plastic waste materials described in that paragraph;
 - (ii) infrastructure projects in which the use of plastic waste has been applied; and
 - (iii) projects in which the use of plastic waste has been incorporated into or with other infrastructure materials;
 - (B) assess—
 - (i) the effectiveness and utility of the uses of plastic waste described in that paragraph;
 - (ii) the extent to which plastic waste materials are consistent with recognized specifications for infrastructure construction and other recognized standards;
 - (iii) relevant impacts of plastic waste materials compared to non-waste plastic materials;
 - (iv) the health, safety, and environmental impacts of—
 - (I) plastic waste on humans and animals; and
 - (II) the increased use of plastic waste for infrastructure;
 - (v) the ability of plastic waste infrastructure to withstand natural disasters, extreme weather events, and other hazards; and
 - (vi) plastic waste in infrastructure through an economic analysis; and
 - (C) make recommendations with respect to what standards or matters may need to be addressed with respect to ensuring human and animal health and safety from the use of plastic waste in infrastructure.
- (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary and the EPA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 304. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS IN FOOD SUPPLIES AND SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER.

- (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The EPA Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will conduct a human health and environmental risk assessment on microplastics, including microfibers, in food supplies and sources of drinking water.
- (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

- (1) a science-based definition of “microplastics” that can be adopted in federally supported monitoring and future assessments supported or conducted by a Federal agency;
- (2) recommendations for standardized monitoring, testing, and other necessary protocols relating to microplastics;

(3) an assessment of—

(A) the extent to which microplastics are present in the food supplies and sources of drinking water; and

(B) the type, source, prevalence, and risk of microplastics in the food supplies and sources of drinking water, including—

(i) an identification of the most significant sources of those microplastics; and

(ii) a review of the best available science to determine any potential hazards of microplastics in the food supplies and sources of drinking water; and

(4) a measurement of—

(A) the quantity of environmental chemicals that adsorb to microplastics; and

(B) the quantity described in subparagraph (A) that would be available for human exposure through food supplies or sources of drinking water.

SEC. 305. REPORT ON ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO INCREASE THE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) the economic, educational, technological, resource availability, legal, or other barriers to increasing the collection, processing, and use of recyclable materials; and

(2) recommendations to overcome the barriers described under paragraph (1).

SEC. 306. REPORT ON ECONOMIC INCENTIVES TO SPUR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW END-USE MARKETS FOR RECYCLED PLASTICS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the most efficient and effective economic incentives to spur the development of additional new end-use markets for recycled plastics, including plastic film, including the use of increased recycled content by manufacturers in the production of plastic goods and packaging.

SEC. 307. REPORT ON MINIMIZING THE CREATION OF NEW PLASTIC WASTE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The EPA Administrator, in coordination with the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall conduct a study on minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

(1) an estimate of the current and projected United States production and consumption of plastics, by type of plastic, including consumer food products;

(2) an estimate of the environmental effects and impacts of plastic production and use in relation to other materials;

(3) an estimate of current and projected future recycling rates of plastics, by type of plastic;

(4) an assessment of opportunities to minimize the creation of new plastic waste, including consumer food products, by reducing, recycling, reusing, refilling, refurbishing, or capturing plastic that would otherwise be part of a waste stream; and

(5) an assessment of what post-consumer recycled content standards for plastic are technologically and economically feasible, and the impact of the standards on recycling rates.