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116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 2372**

To enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To enhance global engagement to combat marine debris,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Save Our Seas 2.0: Enhanced Global Engagement to
4 Combat Marine Debris Act”.

5 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

6 (1) **CIRCULAR ECONOMY.**—The term “circular
7 economy” means an economy that uses a systems-foc-
8 used approach and involves industrial processes and
9 economic activities that—

10 (A) are restorative or regenerative by de-
11 sign;

12 (B) enable resources used in such proc-
13 esses and activities to maintain their highest
14 values for as long as possible; and

15 (C) aim for the elimination of waste
16 through the superior design of materials, prod-
17 ucts, and systems (including business models).

18 (2) **EPA ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “EPA
19 Administrator” means the Administrator of the En-
20 vironmental Protection Agency.

21 (3) **MARINE DEBRIS.**—The term “marine de-
22bris” has the meaning given that term in section 7
23 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956).

24 (4) **MARINE DEBRIS EVENT.**—The term “ma-
25rine debris event” means an event or related events

1 that affects or may imminently affect the United
 2 States involving—

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

6 (B) distinct, nonrecurring marine debris,
 7 including derelict vessel groundings and con-
 8 tainer spills, that have immediate or long-term
 9 impacts on habitats with high ecological, eco-
 10 nomic, or human-use values; or

11 (C) marine debris caused by an intentional
 12 or grossly negligent act or acts that causes sub-
 13 stantial economic or environmental harm.

14 (5) POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGE-
 15 MENT.—The term “post-consumer materials man-
 16 agement” means the systems, operation, supervision,
 17 and aftercare of processes and equipment for post-
 18 consumer materials, including —

19 (A) collection;

20 (B) transport;

21 (C) safe disposal of waste, such as post-
 22 consumer materials that cannot be recovered,
 23 reused, recycled, repaired, or refurbished; and

1 ~~(D)~~ systems and processes related to recov-
 2 ering, recycling, reusing, repairing, or refur-
 3 bishing post-consumer materials.

4 ~~(6)~~ UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
 5 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
 6 for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of
 7 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
 8 tion.

9 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL CO-**
 10 **OPERATION TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS.**

11 It is the policy of the United States to partner, con-
 12 sult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the na-
 13 tional and subnational levels), civil society, international
 14 organizations, international financial institutions, sub-
 15 national coastal communities, commercial and recreational
 16 fishing industry leaders, and the private sector, in a con-
 17 certed effort—

18 ~~(1)~~ to increase knowledge and raise awareness
 19 about—

20 ~~(A)~~ the linkages between the sources of
 21 plastic waste, mismanaged waste and post-con-
 22 sumer materials, and marine debris; and

23 ~~(B)~~ the upstream and downstream causes
 24 and effects of plastic waste, mismanaged waste
 25 and post-consumer materials, and marine debris

on marine environments, marine wildlife,
human health, and economic development;

(2) to support—

(A) strengthening systems for recovering,
managing, reusing (to the extent practicable),
and recycling plastic waste, marine debris, and
microfiber pollution in the world's oceans, em-
phasizing upstream post-consumer materials
management solutions—

(i) to mitigate plastic waste at its
source; and

(ii) to prevent leakage of plastic waste
into the environment;

(B) advancing the utilization and avail-
ability of safe and affordable reusable alter-
natives to disposable plastic products in com-
merce, to the extent practicable, and with con-
sideration for the potential impacts of such al-
ternatives, and other efforts to prevent marine
debris;

(C) deployment of and access to advanced
technologies to capture value from post-con-
sumer materials and municipal solid waste
streams through mechanical and other recycling
systems;

1 ~~(D)~~ access to information on best practices
 2 in post-consumer materials management; op-
 3 tions for post-consumer materials management
 4 systems financing; and options for participating
 5 in public-private partnerships; and

6 ~~(E)~~ implementation of management meas-
 7 ures to reduce derelict fishing gear, the loss of
 8 fishing gear, and other sources of pollution gen-
 9 erated from marine activities and to increase
 10 proper disposal and recycling of fishing gear;
 11 and

12 ~~(3)~~ to work cooperatively with international
 13 partners—

14 ~~(A)~~ on establishing—

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

18 (ii) action plans to achieve those tar-
 19 gets with a mechanism to provide regular
 20 reporting;

21 ~~(B)~~ to promote consumer education,
 22 awareness, and outreach to prevent marine de-
 23 bris;

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

4 ~~(D)~~ to share best practices in post-con-
 5 sumer materials management systems to pre-
 6 vent the entry of plastic waste into the environ-
 7 ment.

8 **SEC. 3. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE TO**
 9 **COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS AND IMPROVE**
 10 **PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

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

15 ~~(1)~~ lead and coordinate efforts to implement the
 16 policy described in section 2; and

17 ~~(2)~~ develop strategies and implement programs
 18 that prioritize engagement and cooperation with for-
 19 eign governments, subnational and local stake-
 20 holders, and the private sector to expedite efforts
 21 and assistance in foreign countries—

22 ~~(A)~~ to partner with, encourage, advise and
 23 facilitate national and subnational governments
 24 on the development and execution, where prac-

1 ticable, of national projects, programs and ini-
 2 tiatives to—

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

6 (ii) monitor and track how well post-
 7 consumer materials management systems
 8 are functioning nationwide, based on uni-
 9 form and transparent standards developed
 10 in cooperation with municipal, industrial,
 11 and civil society stakeholders;

12 (iii) identify the operational challenges
 13 of post-consumer materials management
 14 systems and develop policy and pro-
 15 grammatic solutions;

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

20 (v) conduct outreach campaigns to
 21 raise public awareness of the importance of
 22 proper waste disposal;

23 (B) to facilitate the involvement of munici-
 24 palities and industries in improving solid waste

1 reduction, collection, disposal, and reuse and re-
2 cycling projects, programs, and initiatives;

3 ~~(C)~~ to partner with and provide technical
4 assistance to investors, and national and local
5 institutions, including private sector actors, to
6 develop new business opportunities and solu-
7 tions to specifically reduce plastic waste and ex-
8 pand solid waste and post-consumer materials
9 management best practices in foreign countries
10 by—

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

16 (ii) improving and expanding the ca-
17 pacity of foreign industries to responsibly
18 employ post-consumer materials manage-
19 ment practices;

20 (iii) improving and expanding the ca-
21 pacity and transparency of tracking meech-
22 anisms for marine debris to reduce the im-
23 pacts on the marine environment;

24 (iv) eliminating incentives that under-
25 mine responsible post-consumer materials

management practices and lead to improper waste disposal practices and leakage;

(v) building the capacity of countries—

(I) to monitor, regulate, and manage waste, post-consumer materials and plastic waste, and pollution appropriately and transparently;

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

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

3 (1) ~~The United States Trade Representative.~~

4 (2) ~~The Under Secretary.~~

5 (3) ~~The EPA Administrator.~~

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

8 (5) ~~The President and the Board of Directors~~
9 ~~of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation or~~
10 ~~the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Direc-~~
11 ~~tors of the United States International Development~~
12 ~~Finance Corporation, as appropriate.~~

13 (6) ~~The Chief Executive Officer and the Board~~
14 ~~of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corpora-~~
15 ~~tion.~~

16 (7) ~~The heads of such other agencies as the~~
17 ~~Secretary of State considers appropriate.~~

18 (c) ~~PRIORITIZATION.~~—In carrying out subsection (a),
19 the officials specified in subsection (b) shall prioritize as-
20 sistance to countries with—

21 (1) ~~rapidly developing economies; and~~

22 (2) ~~rivers and coastal areas that are the most~~
23 ~~severe sources of marine debris.~~

24 (d) EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.—In
25 prioritizing and expediting efforts and assistance under

1 this section, the officials specified in subsection (b) shall
 2 use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to meas-
 3 ure the effectiveness of guarantees and assistance in
 4 achieving the policy described in section 2.

5 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
 6 tion may be construed to authorize the modification of or
 7 the imposition of limits on the portfolios of any agency
 8 or institution led by an official specified in subsection (b).

9 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL**
 10 **FORA.**

11 In implementing the policy described in section 2, the
 12 President shall direct the United States representatives to
 13 appropriate international bodies and conferences (such as
 14 the United Nations Environment Programme, the Asso-
 15 ciation of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Eco-
 16 nomic Cooperation, the Group of 7, the Group of 20, and
 17 the Our Ocean Conference) to use the voice, vote, and in-
 18 fluence of the United States, consistent with the broad for-
 19 eign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that
 20 each such body—

21 (1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to
 22 promote investment in well-designed post-consumer
 23 materials management and plastic waste elimination
 24 and mitigation projects and services that increase
 25 access to safe post-consumer materials management

1 and mitigation services, in partnership with the pri-
2 vate sector and consistent with the constraints of
3 other countries;

4 (2) address the post-consumer materials man-
5 agement needs of individuals and communities where
6 access to municipal post-consumer materials man-
7 agement services is historically impractical or cost-
8 prohibitive;

9 (3) enhance coordination with the private sec-
10 tor—

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

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

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

18 (D) to grow economic opportunities and
19 develop markets for recyclable, reusable, and
20 repurposed plastic waste materials and other ef-
21 forts that support the circular economy;

22 (4) provide technical assistance to foreign regu-
23 latory authorities and governments to remove unnec-
24 essary barriers to investment in otherwise commer-
25 cially viable projects related to—

1 (A) post-consumer materials management;

2 (B) the use of safe and affordable reusable
3 alternatives to disposable plastic products, to
4 the extent practicable; or

5 (C) beneficial reuse of solid waste, plastic
6 waste, post-consumer materials, plastic prod-
7 ucts, and refuse;

8 (5) use clear, accountable, and metric-based
9 targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects;
10 and

11 (6) engage international partners in an existing
12 multilateral forum (or, if necessary, establish
13 through an international agreement a new multilat-
14 eral forum) to improve global cooperation on—

15 (A) creating tangible metrics for evaluating
16 efforts to reduce plastic waste and marine de-
17 bris;

18 (B) developing and implementing best
19 practices for collecting, disposing, recycling, and
20 reusing plastic waste and post-consumer mate-
21 rials, including building capacity for improving
22 post-consumer materials management at the
23 national and subnational levels of foreign coun-
24 tries, particularly countries with little to no

1 solid waste or post-consumer materials manage-
2 ment systems; facilities; or policies in place;

3 (C) encouraging the development of stand-
4 ards and practices; and increasing recycled con-
5 tent percentage requirements for disposable
6 plastic products;

7 (D) integrating tracking and monitoring
8 systems into post-consumer materials manage-
9 ment systems;

10 (E) fostering research to improve scientific
11 understanding of—

12 (i) how microfibers and microplastics
13 may affect marine ecosystems; human
14 health and safety; and maritime activities;

15 (ii) changes in the amount and re-
16 gional concentrations of plastic waste in
17 the ocean; based on scientific modeling and
18 forecasting;

19 (iii) the role rivers, streams, and other
20 inland waterways play in serving as con-
21 duits for mismanaged waste traveling from
22 land to the ocean;

23 (iv) effective means to eliminate
24 present and future leakages of plastic
25 waste into the environment; and

1 (v) other related areas of research the
 2 United States representatives deem nec-
 3 essary;

4 (F) encouraging the World Bank and other
 5 international finance organizations to prioritize
 6 efforts to combat marine debris;

7 (G) collaborating on technological advances
 8 in post-consumer materials management and
 9 recycled plastics;

10 (H) growing economic opportunities and
 11 developing markets for recyclable, reusable, and
 12 repurposed plastic waste and post-consumer
 13 materials and other efforts that support the cir-
 14 cular economy; and

15 (I) advising foreign countries, at both the
 16 national and subnational levels, on the develop-
 17 ment and execution of regulatory policies, serv-
 18 ices, including recycling and reuse of plastic,
 19 and laws pertaining to reducing the creation
 20 and the collection and safe management of—

21 (i) solid waste;

22 (ii) post-consumer materials;

23 (iii) plastic waste; and

24 (iv) marine debris.

1 **SEC. 5. ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND**
2 **PARTNERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES**
3 **INVOLVED IN MARINE DEBRIS ACTIVITIES.**

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

8 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF EFFORTS TO BUILD FOR-**
9 **EIGN PARTNERSHIPS.**—The Under Secretary and the
10 EPA Administrator shall work with the Secretary of State
11 and the Administrator of the United States Agency for
12 International Development to build partnerships, as ap-
13 propriate, with the governments of foreign countries and
14 to support international efforts to combat marine debris.

15 **SEC. 6. NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREE-**
16 **MENTS.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Con-
19 gress a report—

20 (1) assessing the potential for negotiating new
21 international agreements or creating a new inter-
22 national forum to reduce land-based sources of ma-
23 rine debris and derelict fishing gear, consistent with
24 section 4;

25 (2) describing the provisions that could be in-
26 cluded in such agreements; and

1 ~~(2)~~ assessing potential parties to such agree-
2 ments.

3 **SEC. 7. CONSIDERATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN NEGOTI-**
4 **ATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**

5 In negotiating any relevant international agreement
6 with any country or countries after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the President shall, as appropriate—

8 (1) consider the impact of land-based sources of
9 plastic waste and other solid waste from that coun-
10 try on the marine and aquatic environment; and

11 ~~(2)~~ ensure that the agreement strengthens ef-
12 forts to eliminate land-based sources of plastic waste
13 and other solid waste from that country that impact
14 the marine and aquatic environment.

15 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.**

16 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
17 *“Save Our Seas 2.0: Enhanced Global Engagement to Com-*
18 *bat Marine Debris Act”.*

19 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this Act:*

20 (1) *CIRCULAR ECONOMY.*—*The term “circular*
21 *economy” means an economy that uses a systems-foc-*
22 *used approach and involves industrial processes and*
23 *economic activities that—*

24 (A) *are restorative or regenerative by de-*
25 *sign;*

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

4 (C) aim for the elimination of waste
 5 through the superior design of materials, prod-
 6 ucts, and systems (including business models).

7 (2) *EPA ADMINISTRATOR*.—The term “EPA Ad-
 8 ministrator” means the Administrator of the Envi-
 9 ronmental Protection Agency.

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

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

17 (A) marine debris caused by a natural
 18 event, including a tsunami, flood, landslide, hur-
 19 ricane, or other natural source;

20 (B) distinct, nonrecurring marine debris,
 21 including derelict vessel groundings and con-
 22 tainer spills, that have immediate or long-term
 23 impacts on habitats with high ecological, eco-
 24 nomic, or human-use values; or

1 (C) marine debris caused by an intentional
 2 or grossly negligent act or acts that causes sub-
 3 stantial economic or environmental harm.

4 (5) *POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGE-*
 5 *MENT.*—The term “post-consumer materials manage-
 6 ment” means the systems, operation, supervision, and
 7 aftercare of processes and equipment for post-con-
 8 sumer materials, including —

9 (A) collection;

10 (B) transport;

11 (C) safe disposal of waste, such as post-con-
 12 sumer materials that cannot be recovered, reused,
 13 recycled, repaired, or refurbished; and

14 (D) systems and processes related to recov-
 15 ering, recycling, reusing, repairing, or refur-
 16 bishing post-consumer materials.

17 (6) *UNDER SECRETARY.*—The term “Under Sec-
 18 retary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for
 19 Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the Na-
 20 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

21 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL CO-**
 22 **OPERATION TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS.**

23 *It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult,*
 24 *and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national*
 25 *and subnational levels), civil society, international organi-*

1 zations, international financial institutions, subnational
 2 coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing
 3 industry leaders, and the private sector, in a concerted ef-
 4 fort—

5 (1) to increase knowledge and raise awareness
 6 about—

7 (A) the linkages between the sources of plas-
 8 tic waste, mismanaged waste and post-consumer
 9 materials, and marine debris; and

10 (B) the upstream and downstream causes
 11 and effects of plastic waste, mismanaged waste
 12 and post-consumer materials, and marine debris
 13 on marine environments, marine wildlife,
 14 human health, and economic development;

15 (2) to support—

16 (A) strengthening systems for recovering,
 17 managing, reusing (to the extent practicable),
 18 and recycling plastic waste, marine debris, and
 19 microfiber pollution in the world's oceans, em-
 20 phasizing upstream post-consumer materials
 21 management solutions—

22 (i) to mitigate plastic waste at its
 23 source; and

24 (ii) to prevent leakage of plastic waste
 25 into the environment;

1 (B) advancing the utilization and avail-
 2 ability of safe and affordable reusable alter-
 3 natives to disposable plastic products in com-
 4 merce, to the extent practicable, and with consid-
 5 eration for the potential impacts of such alter-
 6 natives, and other efforts to prevent marine de-
 7 bris;

8 (C) deployment of and access to advanced
 9 technologies to capture value from post-consumer
 10 materials and municipal solid waste streams
 11 through mechanical and other recycling systems;

12 (D) access to information on best practices
 13 in post-consumer materials management, options
 14 for post-consumer materials management systems
 15 financing, and options for participating in pub-
 16 lic-private partnerships; and

17 (E) implementation of management meas-
 18 ures to reduce derelict fishing gear, the loss of
 19 fishing gear, and other sources of pollution gen-
 20 erated from marine activities and to increase
 21 proper disposal and recycling of fishing gear;
 22 and

23 (3) to work cooperatively with international
 24 partners—

25 (A) on establishing—

1 (i) measurable targets for reducing ma-
 2 rine debris, lost fishing gear, and plastic
 3 waste from all sources; and

4 (ii) action plans to achieve those tar-
 5 gets with a mechanism to provide regular
 6 reporting;

7 (B) to promote consumer education, aware-
 8 ness, and outreach to prevent marine debris;

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

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

15 **SEC. 3. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE TO**
 16 **COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS AND IMPROVE**
 17 **PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

18 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of State shall, in co-
 19 ordination with the Administrator of the United States
 20 Agency for International Development, as appropriate, and
 21 the officials specified in subsection (b)—

22 (1) lead and coordinate efforts to implement the
 23 policy described in section 2; and

24 (2) develop strategies and implement programs
 25 that prioritize engagement and cooperation with for-

1 *eign governments, subnational and local stakeholders,*
 2 *and the private sector to expedite efforts and assist-*
 3 *ance in foreign countries—*

4 *(A) to partner with, encourage, advise and*
 5 *facilitate national and subnational governments*
 6 *on the development and execution, where prac-*
 7 *ticable, of national projects, programs and ini-*
 8 *tiatives to—*

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

12 *(ii) monitor and track how well post-*
 13 *consumer materials management systems*
 14 *are functioning nationwide, based on uni-*
 15 *form and transparent standards developed*
 16 *in cooperation with municipal, industrial,*
 17 *and civil society stakeholders;*

18 *(iii) identify the operational challenges*
 19 *of post-consumer materials management*
 20 *systems and develop policy and pro-*
 21 *grammatic solutions;*

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

1 (v) conduct outreach campaigns to
 2 raise public awareness of the importance of
 3 proper waste disposal;

4 (B) to facilitate the involvement of munici-
 5 palities and industries in improving solid waste
 6 reduction, collection, disposal, and reuse and re-
 7 cycling projects, programs, and initiatives;

8 (C) to partner with and provide technical
 9 assistance to investors, and national and local
 10 institutions, including private sector actors, to
 11 develop new business opportunities and solutions
 12 to specifically reduce plastic waste and expand
 13 solid waste and post-consumer materials man-
 14 agement best practices in foreign countries by—

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

20 (ii) improving and expanding the ca-
 21 pacity of foreign industries to responsibly
 22 employ post-consumer materials manage-
 23 ment practices;

24 (iii) improving and expanding the ca-
 25 pacity and transparency of tracking mecha-

nisms 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 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

(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

1 (vi) promoting safe and affordable re-
 2 usable alternatives to disposable plastic
 3 products, to the extent practicable; and

4 (D) to research, identify, and facilitate op-
 5 portunities to promote collection and proper dis-
 6 posal of damaged or derelict fishing gear.

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

9 (1) *The United States Trade Representative.*

10 (2) *The Under Secretary.*

11 (3) *The EPA Administrator.*

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

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

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

21 (7) *The heads of such other agencies as the Sec-*
 22 *retary of State considers appropriate.*

23 (c) *PRIORITIZATION.*—In carrying out subsection (a),
 24 the officials specified in subsection (b) shall prioritize as-

1 *sistance to countries with, and regional organizations in*
 2 *regions with—*

3 *(1) rapidly developing economies; and*

4 *(2) rivers and coastal areas that are the most se-*
 5 *vere sources of marine debris, as identified by the best*
 6 *available science.*

7 *(d) EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.—In prioritizing*
 8 *and expediting efforts and assistance under this section, the*
 9 *officials specified in subsection (b) shall use clear, account-*
 10 *able, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness*
 11 *of guarantees and assistance in achieving the policy de-*
 12 *scribed in section 2.*

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

17 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL**
 18 **FORA.**

19 *In implementing the policy described in section 2, the*
 20 *President shall direct the United States representatives to*
 21 *appropriate international bodies and conferences (includ-*
 22 *ing the United Nations Environment Programme, the Asso-*
 23 *ciation of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Eco-*
 24 *nomie Cooperation, the Group of 7, the Group of 20, the*
 25 *Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development*

1 *(OECD), and the Our Ocean Conference) to use the voice,*
 2 *vote, and influence of the United States, consistent with the*
 3 *broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate*
 4 *that each such body—*

5 *(1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to*
 6 *promote investment in well-designed post-consumer*
 7 *materials management and plastic waste elimination*
 8 *and mitigation projects and services that increase ac-*
 9 *cess to safe post-consumer materials management and*
 10 *mitigation services, in partnership with the private*
 11 *sector and consistent with the constraints of other*
 12 *countries;*

13 *(2) address the post-consumer materials manage-*
 14 *ment needs of individuals and communities where ac-*
 15 *cess to municipal post-consumer materials manage-*
 16 *ment services is historically impractical or cost-pro-*
 17 *hibitive;*

18 *(3) enhance coordination with the private sec-*
 19 *tor—*

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

22 *(B) to utilize safe and affordable reusable*
 23 *alternatives to disposable plastic products, to the*
 24 *extent practicable;*

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

3 (D) to grow economic opportunities and de-
4 velop markets for recyclable, reusable, and
5 repurposed plastic waste materials and other ef-
6 forts that support the circular economy;

7 (4) provide technical assistance to foreign regu-
8 latory authorities and governments to remove unnec-
9 essary barriers to investment in otherwise commer-
10 cially-viable projects related to—

11 (A) post-consumer materials management;

12 (B) the use of safe and affordable reusable
13 alternatives to disposable plastic products, to the
14 extent practicable; or

15 (C) beneficial reuse of solid waste, plastic
16 waste, post-consumer materials, plastic products,
17 and refuse;

18 (5) use clear, accountable, and metric-based tar-
19 gets to measure the effectiveness of such projects; and

20 (6) engage international partners in an existing
21 multilateral forum (or, if necessary, establish through
22 an international agreement a new multilateral
23 forum) to improve global cooperation on—

24 (A) creating tangible metrics for evaluating
25 efforts to reduce plastic waste and marine debris;

1 *(B) developing and implementing best prac-*
 2 *tices for collecting, disposing, recycling, and*
 3 *reusing plastic waste and post-consumer mate-*
 4 *rials, including building capacity for improving*
 5 *post-consumer materials management at the na-*
 6 *tional and subnational levels of foreign countries,*
 7 *particularly countries with little to no solid*
 8 *waste or post-consumer materials management*
 9 *systems, facilities, or policies in place;*

10 *(C) encouraging the development of stand-*
 11 *ards and practices, and increasing recycled con-*
 12 *tent percentage requirements for disposable plas-*
 13 *tic products;*

14 *(D) integrating tracking and monitoring*
 15 *systems into post-consumer materials manage-*
 16 *ment systems;*

17 *(E) fostering research to improve scientific*
 18 *understanding of—*

19 *(i) how microfibers and microplastics*
 20 *may affect marine ecosystems, human*
 21 *health and safety, and maritime activities;*

22 *(ii) changes in the amount and re-*
 23 *gional concentrations of plastic waste in the*
 24 *ocean, based on scientific modeling and*
 25 *forecasting;*

1 (iii) the role rivers, streams, and other
 2 inland waterways play in serving as con-
 3 duits for mismanaged waste traveling from
 4 land to the ocean;

5 (iv) effective means to eliminate
 6 present and future leakages of plastic waste
 7 into the environment; and

8 (v) other related areas of research the
 9 United States representatives deem nec-
 10 essary;

11 (F) encouraging the World Bank and other
 12 international finance organizations to prioritize
 13 efforts to combat marine debris;

14 (G) collaborating on technological advances
 15 in post-consumer materials management and re-
 16 cycled plastics;

17 (H) growing economic opportunities and
 18 developing markets for recyclable, reusable, and
 19 repurposed plastic waste and post-consumer ma-
 20 terials and other efforts that support the circular
 21 economy; and

22 (I) advising foreign countries, at both the
 23 national and subnational levels, on the develop-
 24 ment and execution of regulatory policies, serv-
 25 ices, including recycling and reuse of plastic,

1 *and laws pertaining to reducing the creation*
 2 *and the collection and safe management of—*

3 *(i) solid waste;*

4 *(ii) post-consumer materials;*

5 *(iii) plastic waste; and*

6 *(iv) marine debris.*

7 **SEC. 5. ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND**
 8 **PARTNERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES**
 9 **INVOLVED IN MARINE DEBRIS ACTIVITIES.**

10 *(a) FINDINGS.—Congress recognizes the success of the*
 11 *marine debris program of the National Oceanic and Atmos-*
 12 *pheric Administration and the Trash-Free Waters program*
 13 *of the Environmental Protection Agency.*

14 *(b) AUTHORIZATION OF EFFORTS TO BUILD FOREIGN*
 15 *PARTNERSHIPS.—The Under Secretary and the EPA Ad-*
 16 *ministrator shall work with the Secretary of State and the*
 17 *Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-*
 18 *national Development to build partnerships, as appro-*
 19 *priate, with the governments of foreign countries and to*
 20 *support international efforts to combat marine debris.*

21 **SEC. 6. NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREE-**
 22 **MENTS.**

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

1 (1) *assessing the potential for negotiating new*
 2 *international agreements or creating a new inter-*
 3 *national forum to reduce land-based sources of ma-*
 4 *rine debris and derelict fishing gear, consistent with*
 5 *section 4;*

6 (2) *describing the provisions that could be in-*
 7 *cluded in such agreements; and*

8 (3) *assessing potential parties to such agree-*
 9 *ments.*

10 **SEC. 7. CONSIDERATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN NEGOTI-**
 11 **ATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**

12 *In negotiating any relevant international agreement*
 13 *with any country or countries after the date of the enact-*
 14 *ment of this Act, the President shall, as appropriate—*

15 (1) *consider the impact of land-based sources of*
 16 *plastic waste and other solid waste from that country*
 17 *on the marine and aquatic environment; and*

18 (2) *ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts*
 19 *to eliminate land-based sources of plastic waste and*
 20 *other solid waste from that country that impact the*
 21 *marine and aquatic environment.*

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A BILL

To enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

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