

# NEWS RELEASE

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INFRASTRUCTURE FIX AND  
PLASTICS RECYCLING GO HAND-IN-HAND  
INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES TELL CONGRESS

Fair and Open Competition Key to Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. - April 18, 2019 - Opening up federally funded infrastructure projects to include thermoplastic pipe can increase the elimination of plastic waste. That was the position of Tony Radoszewski, CAE, president of the Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) during his presentation to members of Congress during the 2019 Plastics Industry Fly-In. Based outside of Dallas, PPI is the major North American association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry.

“Fair and open competition of qualified products is the gateway to not only reducing costs, but also to increasing the productive use of plastic waste,” Radoszewski explained. “When companies know they have new markets to pursue, in this case plastics pipe manufacturers being including in the bid process, they are comfortable funding new technologies such as how to use more recycled plastic in their products.”

PPI joined four other plastics organizations - Plastics Industry Association, American Chemistry Council, American Mold Builders Association and the Manufacturers Association for Plastics Processors - to discuss issues including recycling, open competition, trade and workforce development. This is the sixth year PPI has participated.

“Overall, I found there was a positive reception for our group, our presentations and from individual members of Congress,” he stated. “This included Congressmen Daniel Webster (R)

from Florida's 11th District who is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He was very interested in how our members' products can benefit the American public, and pleased to learn that scrap plastic bottles can become long-life plastic pipe used in storm water management systems."

In addition to Radoszewski, PPI's Director of Engineering for its Corrugated Pipe Division, Daniel Currence, P.E., was also on the Hill. They met with the legislative staffs of Congressmen Paul Mitchell (R-MI), Troy Balderson (R-OH), Greg Stanton (D-AZ) and Scott Perry (R-PA), who also serve on the Committee with Rep. Webster.

"From these meetings, we feel that there is a drive within Congress to focus strongly on incorporating sustainability, resiliency and life cycle analysis into the federal, state and local procurement process," Currence related. "In addition, we are seeking Congressional support for allowing all technically qualified materials to bid on projects where federal funds are used for the infrastructure. This would drive down installed costs by opening up the bid specification to include high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP) drainage pipe, which are known to stand up to tough environments including heavy traffic loads and high pH levels. These products meet AASHTO H-25 loading requirements and specifications set by ASTM, makes them fully vetted and qualified plus the fact that they have a 100-year service life, documented by independent studies and state and federal government agencies including Departments of Transportation (DOT)."

According to PPI's Radoszewski, Congress is on the right track to solving two problems all at once. "Finding a way to marry eliminating plastic waste to the infrastructure's need in an open competition environment was a well-received message during the Fly-In. And, because of Congress' actions, our members are willing to devote even more research and development resources to the industry and to our country."

Additional information can be found at: [www.plasticpipe.org](http://www.plasticpipe.org).

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***Photo follows...***



During the Plastics Industry's DC Fly-In event, March 26 -27, Dan Currence (left) and Tony Radoszewski (right) of the Plastics Pipe Institute met with members of Congress including Daniel Webster (R) from Florida's 11th District, who is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**About PPI:**

*The Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) is the major North American trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry and is dedicated to promoting plastic as the materials of choice for pipe and conduit applications. PPI is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource publishing data for use in the development and design of plastic pipe and conduit systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation methods.*