February 22, 2019

The Association of Plastics Recyclers
1776 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

To Whom it May Concern:

The Ag Container Recycling Council “ACRC” is a not-for-profit industry association with a mission to conduct research regarding potentially acceptable uses of rigid HDPE plastic agricultural product containers (up to 56 gal - crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, fertilizer, and/or adjuvant) and to support the collection and recycling of those containers through promotion of cost effective programs that foster public health and safety, environmental protection, resource conservation and end user convenience. For over 25 years, the ACRC has performed this mission through the funding of its member companies. The result has been in excess of 190M pounds of HDPE containers collected and recycled into a variety of approved end uses.

Over the life of the program, HDPE container manufacturers have supplied significant volumes of fluorinated plastic containers into the crop protection industry. Fluorination is used to prevent numerous ingredients found in product formulations from permeating through the container walls, thereby maintaining product efficacy and increasing the shelf life. It is estimated that roughly 20-30% of all rigid ag chem packaging in North America sold into the crop protection market are produced with fluorinated HDPE.

Once emptied and triple rinsed in the field, these fluorinated containers have been collected and recycled along with non-fluorinated containers without any segregation. The resulting ground plastic has been marketed and sold by ACRC contractors to various approved manufacturers for subsequent production of end use products approved by the ACRC technical committee. These downstream end use manufacturers have used this recycled HDPE, thus enabling virtually all poundage of HDPE and fluorinated HDPE collected by ACRC contractors to be sold for productive purposes.

The ACRC technical committee continues to research further end uses and technology that will enhance the value of the plastic and expand the opportunities for sales into approved markets. It is expected that fluorinated HDPE will remain a significant part of the HDPE volumes that ACRC contractors collect and sell on an annual basis. If there are questions about the ACRC program, product characteristics and approved end uses, please contact either Mark Hudson, Executive Director of the ACRC or Gary Price, Chair of the ACRC Technical Committee.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Hudson
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Gary Price
Chair, ACRC Technical Committee
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