



Plastics PAC
Political Action Committee

Dear Fellow IAPD Member:

As business professionals, we understand the importance of investing. Every day we invest in our companies, to keep them successful. But what about legislative threats to our industry? How do we mitigate the problems that are outside of our purview?

Government plays a massive role in determining the conditions under which we operate our businesses. One harmful law or regulation has the potential of destroying years of hard work ... or even entire businesses. What would happen if performance plastics get bundled with single-use plastics in legislation? That would threaten our livelihoods. That's why it's so important for everyone in our industry to make a personal investment in the IAPD Plastics PAC.

The IAPD Plastics PAC:

- Supports the Members of Congress who defend our business interests in Washington
- Gets IAPD members opportunities to educate Members of Congress on the realities of our industry
- Counters the messages delivered by PACs formed by materials such as metal, wood and glass

Political contributions will help raise the profile of the performance plastics industry in Washington and are a critical tool for our lobbyists to advance our legislative agenda.

Our competitors know the value of a PAC, particularly as a weapon in the battlefield of government policy. For example, during the 2014 election cycle our allies at the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors gave a total of \$225,200 to federal candidates. Similarly, the Society of the Plastics Industry contributed a total of \$43,500 while the American Iron and Steel Institute contributed \$77,000 and the American Chemistry Council led with total contributions of \$589,356.

You ask how the IAPD Plastics PAC could compete in this environment. With 270 members, if every IAPD member company contributes \$1,000 per year to the IAPD Plastics PAC, which would give us \$270,000 per year to support our friends in Washington. Overnight we would become one of the major players in the PAC world!

Through the IAPD's new Government Relations initiative, my eyes have been opened to the realities our industry faces in Washington. If you are uninvolved in the political process, it is easy to forget about the risks our industry faces every day in Washington, and, just as importantly all of the things Washington can do to make our businesses more difficult to grow and prosper.

Last year alone, the IAPD Government Relations effort resulted in several MAJOR successes for IAPD members, including:

1. Staving off efforts by our opponents to force EPA testing to the final product level – meaning all of us would have been responsible for the significant costs and reductions to our bottom lines.
2. Section 179 Tax Relief Permanence – IAPD played a critical role in supporting efforts to make Section 179 of the IRS tax code permanent. This deduction allows your businesses to deduct the full purchase price of qualifying equipment and/or software purchased or financed during the tax year. That means that if you buy (or lease) a piece of qualifying equipment, you can deduct the FULL PURCHASE PRICE from your gross income.
3. Medical Device Tax Suspension – The tax on durable medical devices that was part of the Affordable Care Act put a dent into a lot of our businesses, freezing orders and causing us to make necessary reductions. However, late last year Congress finally saw fit to suspend this tax for at least two years. We are proud to say that the IAPD played a critical role as one of the few supply chain members of the coalition that fought so hard to repeal this tax.

Our priorities cannot be accomplished without legislators who understand and hear from the performance plastics industry. What happens in Washington, D.C. affects our companies' bottom lines. Supporting those Members of Congress who support our companies is critical. If you don't like what's coming out of Washington, DC, it's even more essential that you pay attention to who is getting elected to serve in Congress. There is no substitute for involvement in the political process to drive change that will benefit your business and to prevent policies from being adopted that will erect new and greater barriers to the present and future success of your company.

This is why I am asking that you help support the IAPD Plastics PAC by making a contribution today. The maximum annual contribution is \$5,000 per individual, but no amount is too small. No matter the amount, every dollar counts!

I hope you join me in making this sound investment in the IAPD Plastics PAC to help protect our industry from harmful government action. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you in advance for your help with our efforts to support and protect the performance plastics industry's future.

Best regards,

Mitch Opalich
IAPD Plastics PAC Chair; IAPD Vice President