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**For immediate release:**

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**Colorado Legislature Recognizes Plastic Pollution Awareness Week**

*July 12–18 is designated to highlight environmental and public health considerations related to plastic pollution*

**Denver, CO** - The Colorado Senate adopted a joint resolution recognizing July 12 through 18, 2026, as Plastic Pollution Awareness Week. Sponsored by Senator Lisa Cutter and Representative Junie Joseph, the resolution highlights the growing body of research on plastic pollution and its potential environmental and public health implications.

“As a champion of state policies like the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act and Colorado’s Producer Responsibility for Recycling Act, I’m glad to have sponsored this Plastic Pollution Awareness Week resolution,” said Senator Cutter. “This designation underscores Colorado’s commitment to reducing plastic waste and strengthening recycling systems, while recognizing that recycling alone is not enough. Addressing plastic pollution requires a broad approach, including raising awareness, empowering consumers to make informed choices, encouraging companies to reduce their environmental footprint, and advancing stronger policies and solutions.”

While plastics have delivered important benefits to our society, particularly in areas like health care and food safety, the impacts of plastic waste are harming people and the environment. Plastics are derived from fossil fuels, and their production contributes to climate change and produces toxic chemicals that result in greenhouse gases and industrial pollutants. Plastics persist in the environment for hundreds of years, polluting waterways, and break down into microplastics found in our food, water, air, and within the human body. The impacts of plastic pollution are widespread and continue to be the subject of scientific scrutiny.

“Establishing Plastic Pollution Awareness Week is just one more reason why Colorado is a leader on environmental issues,” added Representative Junie Joseph. “Tackling plastic pollution calls for a more comprehensive effort—one that builds public awareness, helps people make better everyday choices, pushes businesses to lessen their impact, and drives stronger policies forward. By working together, communities, businesses, organizations, and policymakers can take meaningful steps to reduce plastic pollution and protect both public health and the environment. I’m looking forward to celebrating in July!”

Plastic Pollution Awareness Week was recognized to raise awareness of the growing harms of plastic pollution and the solutions the State of Colorado can pursue to slow the tide of problematic and unnecessary plastic production.

Environmental organizations across Colorado celebrated the legislature's recognition of this important issue.

"As Eco-Cycle celebrates 50 years of recycling and waste reduction in Colorado, we are proud to have helped create Plastic Pollution Awareness Week," stated Eco-Cycle's Policy and Campaigns Specialist Ryan Call. "As a recycler, we know firsthand that there isn't just one approach to the issue of plastic pollution. We can all work together to reduce the demand for unnecessary and problematic plastics, especially those that contain chemicals of concern. To us, every day is Earth Day, but designations like Colorado's Plastic Pollution Awareness Week will help spur meaningful actions."

Plastic pollution has become an increasing threat to wildlife and human health. Many groups in the state have prioritized public education and policy change that will clean up our environment and protect Coloradans from the health impacts.

"We're seeing a growing body of evidence that plastics don't just stay in the environment—plastic pieces and the toxic chemicals they carry make their way into our bodies. Microplastics have been detected in blood, lungs, and placentas, and scientists are studying how they may impact everything from respiratory health to hormone function. Increasing public awareness is critical so communities can better understand these risks and support solutions that protect health." – Sara Carpenter, MD, Executive Director, Healthy Air & Water Colorado

"The impacts of extracting fossil fuels out of the ground to create plastics that we bury in landfills after their use, only to extract more fossil fuels to repeat the process, are overwhelming," said Brian Loma, Hazardous Materials and Waste Diversion Advocate for GreenLatinos Colorado. "The whole process pollutes communities around the world with hazardous air emissions, unsafe living conditions, and now, we are learning that all levels of life on Earth, from plankton to humans, have plastic in our bodies."

"Colorado's air is already burdened by ozone pollution, and plastic pollution only adds to the harm—from the crude oil extracted here that becomes the building block of plastics, to the toxic chemicals and microplastics released as single-use items break down. By raising awareness, we can come together across Colorado to advance stronger solutions that reduce plastic pollution, protect vulnerable communities, and ensure a healthier future for our children." – Laurie Anderson, Colorado Field Organizer, Moms Clean Air Force

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