The House Select on the Climate Crisis Committee released a 538 page “Climate Crisis Action Plan” on June 30, 2020. The report captures several of AFCC’s recommendations, which were included in comments submitted to the committee last year.

AFCC’s recommendations included public policy measures that could help deploy innovation in industrial and biotechnology climate change solutions across several sectors of the U.S. economy, such as infrastructure projects, transportation, sustainable chemistry, a sustainable aviation fuels tax credit and a ground transportation biofuels tax credit as depicted in Senator Wyden’s, Clean Energy for America Act, S.1288, as well as wind and solar initiatives, and agriculture, biobased products, and manufacturing initiatives.

In fact, the report recommends the Sustainable Chemistry Research Development Act of 2019, S.999/H.R.2051, which AFCC advocated for in concert with a small group of associations for developing a sustainable chemistry innovation framework for United States.

The measure recommends that The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) convene an interagency entity under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility of coordinating Federal program activities in support of sustainable chemistry.

This will include:

- Assessing the state of sustainable chemistry in the United States as a key benchmark from which progress can be measured for key technology platforms and barriers to innovation;
- Coordinating and supporting Federal research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training efforts in sustainable
chemistry, including budget coordination and support for public-private partnerships as deemed appropriate

- Identifying methods by which the Federal agencies can facilitate the development of incentives;
- Consideration and use of sustainable chemistry processes and products, including innovative financing mechanisms;
- Identifying major scientific challenges, road blocks, and hurdles to transformational progress in improving the sustainability of the chemical sciences; and
- Identifying other opportunities for expanding Federal efforts in support of sustainable chemistry.

AFCC applauds the inclusion of the Sustainable Chemistry Research Development Act of 2019, S.999/H.R.2051 as an amendment in the House and Senate versions of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which is moving through Congress as this is being written.

In particular, AFCC would like to thank the bipartisan leadership of Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Susan Collins (R-ME), Representatives Dan Lipinski (D-IL-03) and John Moolenaar (R-MI-04), along with their co-sponsors, in championing the House bill and the Senate companion bill. This encourages the development of sustainable innovative technologies which impact the entire supply chain for the production of every day biobased products.

Furthermore, the report calls for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, recommends policies aimed at achieving zero-carbon energy and green transportation, including a clean power standard for electric utilities, a price on carbon, and a zero-emissions vehicle standard.

“Working together, we will avert the worst impacts of the climate emergency and build a stronger, healthier, and fairer America for everyone,” the report says. Also, in the report is a National Climate Adaptation Program to help states, tribes, and localities prepare for the effects of climate change as well a proposal for launching the "Climate Resilience Service Corps."

The House Democrats passed a $1.6 trillion infrastructure package on July 1 that includes many policies laid out in the Select on the Climate Crisis Committee report. Unfortunately, the measure is widely seen as partisan messaging that stands no chance of passage in the Republican-led Senate.

The White House already has issued a statement opposing the House infrastructure bill, arguing that it is chock-full of "wasteful 'Green New Deal' initiatives." And, the House has yet to figure out how to the pay for the bill. The report from the House Select on the Climate Crisis Committee will likely serve as a template for a major climate legislation bill should Democrats win the Senate and White House in November.