Plastic has become an incredibly important material to our economy and daily lives. Plastic helps food last longer on shelves and minimizes waste. Products are lighter and easier to ship, reducing the carbon footprint of handling. But plastic waste is ending up in our environment. At the point of production, facilities are leaking small pieces of plastic into local environments. At the point of disposal, plastic often ends up in landfills, or worse in nature.

Plastic is a valuable resource, and as such, it should not be discarded, abandoned, or leaked into the environment. Plastic has no place in nature.

We have arrived at this reality, where 11 million metric tons of plastic enter the world’s oceans every year, because instead of understanding the value of reusing materials, global economies have capitalized on waste creation at the expense of the health of our environments and communities. But we can change course.

We do not need to live in a world where plastic is waste, where waste is pollution, and where pollution is pervasive. Changing course begins with reevaluating the way materials are used, the way waste is handled, and the way consumers, governments, and companies operate in a disjointed system.

We, the undersigned ‘OneSource Coalition,’ recognize that fixing our disjointed system and achieving a circular economy in the United States will require change and that change is both possible and necessary.
The solutions to achieve our common vision of a circular economy for plastics and other materials are centered around the following three principles:

1. **National Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

   A national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system can create the regulatory certainty needed to advance national waste diversion targets, incentivize easy-to-recycle packaging designs, stimulate overdue investment and access to recycling systems, and provide clarity to consumers who face an overwhelming system.

   Any EPR framework needs to include clearly defined revenue streams dedicated to optimizing recycling access and infrastructure, principles for consumer access, and mechanisms to ensure producers have consistent access to high quality recycled materials to achieve closed loop recycling. Programs should incentivize sustainable alternatives, including an evaluation of reuse and composting models, innovation in the materials lifecycle, and ecomodulation to encourage a shift away from problematic materials.

2. **Environmental Justice and Local Protections**

   A circular economy must be designed to best protect public health, locally and globally, from the potential impacts of materials production, collection, recycling, and disposal. Regulators must ensure that materials production, collection, recycling, and disposal facilities and operators are held to clear and effective siting, discharge, and public participation standards. At the point of production, plastic leakage and effluent discharge needs to be monitored in the same ways that other production plants monitor their environmental impacts.

3. **International Leadership**

   The United States must be a leader on the international stage to curb plastic pollution. We can make change here at home, but plastic pollution is an issue that does not observe borders. We encourage the Administration to engage productively at the UN to establish an international framework to combat plastic pollution. Our planetary health depends on all of us making change.
As a Coalition, we recognize that there is a lot of work to do to solve our plastic waste crisis, but we also recognize that everyone has a role to play.

Corporations must reevaluate their plastic footprints, including reduction and re-design, and engage in the future of recycling. Consumers understand the impacts of plastic waste and need to be empowered to take the right steps to enable streamlined waste management. U.S. federal, state and local governments need to set the rules of the road and help all actors—corporations and consumers alike—be productive partners in a new system.

We endorse this statement of solutions.