KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY **OFFICIAL PROPOSAL**

Proposal #:

Assignment:

Country: United States of America School: West Carter HS City: Olive Hill

Author(s): Andrew Henderson

McKenna Horsley

Title: An act to initiate needed scientific research on the areas of the ocean that are referred to as "garbage patches".

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Justification Clause: Currently the United Nations has no available data on areas of the ocean known as "garbage patches", and more specifically the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Garbage Patches. The term "garbage patch" refers to the high concentration of marine debris, especially high in concentrations of pelagic plastics, chemical sludge, and other marine litter. This proposal aims to have the United Nations conduct research on these patches seeing as they have known about said patches since circa 2006 and have yet to release a statement about them or take any action towards better understanding them and the effects they have on the ecosystem.

Section I:Garbage patches contain high concentrations of marine debris and more specifically pelagic plastics. The garbage patches are highly concentrated in three main areas of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. Garbage patches form by the effects of gyres. Gyres are large systems of rotating ocean currents, formed due to the Coriolis Effect. It is estimated that 13,000 pieces of plastic litter are found in every square kilometer of sea and that plastic waste floating in the North Pacific has increased 100-fold over the last 40 years.

Section II: The United Nations Environment Programme, an international institution that coordinates United Nations environmental activities, will put together a team of researchers and scientists, at their own disclosure, to investigate the larger garbage patch concentrations of our oceans. These include the: Great Pacific Garbage Patch, North Atlantic Garbage Patch, and the Indian Ocean Garbage Patch. Because no concrete investigations have been done on these areas by the United Nations it is a requirement that must be met before taking into any serious consideration whether it is even plausible to remove the garbage patches.

Section III: The studies preformed by those the United Nations Environment Programme have chosen will end once they have gathered a substantial amount of evidence necessary to determine the effects the garbage patches have on our ecosystem, long and short term effects included.

Section IV: With the necessary research completed it will be in the hands of the United Nations to inform all countries of any steps that would be deemed necessary to decrease each country's plastic footprint or it at all possible remove the garbage patches.

Section V: Upon passage, this program will go into effect immediately.