

Whole Systems Foundation

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Letter of Support: Lord of the Trash Rings

I have only recently begun working with the team for this project and was not part of the evolution of their design. Because of that, I was particularly impressed with the design of their product. Having spent a month in the Pacific Garbage Patch, designing, building and testing simple prototypes of passive collection devices for Project Kaisei, I immediately saw that they have a grasp of many of the problems that need to be solved and have developed some interesting solutions. To accomplish this they have clearly done effective research and interpreted the information with open and creative minds. The basis of their plan is the concept of an unmanned passive device that can be manufactured relatively inexpensively, and transported easily to the collection site. Very few people with proposals for cleaning up the plastic in the ocean have had that insight. If time had permitted, I would have enjoyed working with them further.

Norton Smith
Whole Systems Foundation
Consulting Engineer, Project Kaisei 2009