

## **INC4 Letter Quotes**

### **John Beard Jr., Founder and Director of Port Arthur Community Action Network:**

“Communities in the Gulf South, particularly Texas and Louisiana, have been long overburdened by fossil fuel pollution, and have now become victims of the plastics industry expansion. Big Oil and Gas wants to transition to plastics to prop up profits, at people’s expense. Plastics are in our rivers, lakes, oceans, even showing up the placentas and bloodstreams of mothers and their unborn children. A legally binding global plastic treaty is necessary to address not only the production of plastics, but also the entire lifecycle of plastics, plastic pollution, and chemical waste management. Our government, particularly the State Department, must negotiate a strong treaty devoid of loopholes, false solutions and ambiguous language that support industry’s profits over the lives, health of people and the planet. As we shift away from fossil fuels, we must not fall victim to industry’s attempts to extend the age of oil, and further endanger the health of our families and communities.”

### **Dr. Anja Brandon, Associate Director, US Plastics Policy, Ocean Conservancy**

“As the number one generator of plastic waste in the world, the United States has played an outsized role in driving the plastic pollution crisis and as such, now has the chance and responsibility to be a leader when it comes to tackling this issue. We're grateful to Senator Merkley, Representative Huffman, and their colleagues' leadership in working to address this crisis at home and we encourage the U.S. administration to channel their efforts to support the most ambitious treaty possible across the full lifecycle of plastics.”

### **Elida Castillo, Director of Chispa Texas:**

“Our gulf communities are being assaulted daily with new, bigger, and more aggressive petrochemical and dirty industry facilities. There is no end to it. We need the support of our U.S. and global leaders to implement solutions like this treaty to address the dangerous pollution from plastics’ processing, use, and waste that puts our air, water, and public health at risk.”

### **Jill Hunkler, Director of Ohio Valley Allies:**

“I had been living in a sacrifice zone due to the polluting and poorly regulated fracking operations for years when the petrochemical industry arrived creating even more toxic air and water pollution in the Ohio River Valley. We are not only dealing with negative health impacts, but also unsafe roadways due to heavy industry traffic, air and noise pollution, public, well and spring water contamination, pipeline explosions and well pad fires, including one that contaminated a stream that feeds our mighty Ohio River, resulting in the death of 70,000 fish. The cradle to grave impacts of plastic on human health and the environment must be considered in these negotiations.”

### **Christy Leavitt, Campaign director at Oceana**

“We are facing a global plastics crisis that requires urgent, global action. Reducing plastic production needs to be a core part of the solution. We must stop the flow of plastic pollution that is harming our oceans, climate, and health by starting at the source to reduce its production. The U.S. should support a strong, legally binding treaty to address this persistent pollutant.”

**Sarah Martik, Executive Director of The Center for Coalfield Justice:**

“Plastic starts polluting the second oil and fracked gas is pulled from the wellhead, causing often irreparable damage to public health and the environment. The United States, to date, has failed to meet this crisis head-on. We must change course now and advocate for binding production limits in order for this treaty to have any chance of meeting its intended goals.”

**Melanie Oldham, Founder and Director of Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water:**

“In my community of Freeport, Texas, we are surrounded by DOW Chemical, BASF, and other industrial polluters. The people in our low income, largely Hispanic and Black community receive no benefits from the petrochemical industry. Instead, we have severe ozone pollution and severe health issues due to overexposure to the toxic ‘chemical soup’ in our air and water.”

**Frankie Orona, Executive Director of Society of Native Nations:**

“As original peoples of the land, we have an inherent right to protect the environment, land, air, water and all creation. We are the air. We are the water. We are the land. We are the environment. The Biden administration's position on the global plastics treaty still fails to address the intergenerational harms that have been inflicted on Indigenous, frontline, and environmental justice communities by the petrochemical sector. As the world's largest producer and exporter of plastic waste, the US has a moral obligation to confront this crisis at the root and push for a treaty that prioritizes public health and human rights over the interests of the plastics industry.”

**Jennifer Savage, Senior Manager, Plastics Pollution Initiative, The Surfrider Foundation**

“The United States has an opportunity to create hope for a cleaner, healthier, safer future by insisting on a Global Plastics Treaty that reduces plastic production. With human health and the climate at stake, this is not the time to applaud half-hearted measures, but to wholly embrace strong, binding commitments that affirm the U.S.'s position as an ambitious leader dedicated to stopping, without delay, plastic production's widespread harm to our planet.”

**Diane Wilson, Executive Director of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper:**

“Frontline communities that live with plastic plants are already buried in pollution. There are microplastics all over the bays, the marshes, and on the beaches where the kids swim and build sand castles. It's everywhere. The U.S. must stand up to corporations on the global stage by reducing the amount of plastic that is being produced and stopping new or expanded petrochemical facilities from being built. The waters that support our fisheries and livelihoods can't take it anymore.”