



May 12, 2025

Senator Denise Tepler, Chair
Representative Victoria Doudera, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Maine Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1928 – An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-use Plastic Containers

Dear Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of L.D. 1928. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Just Zero. Just Zero is a national environmental non-profit advocacy organization that works to implement proven and effective policies that reduce waste, improve recycling, and protect the environment.

It is no secret that we're facing a plastic pollution crisis. Plastic is now found in virtually every corner of the earth – from remote mountain peaks to the deepest parts of the ocean. All this plastic is threatening our environment and our health. Microplastics have been found in drinking water, beer, honey, human blood, lungs, breast milk, and even in placenta.¹ Exposure to microplastics has been linked to inflammation, genotoxicity, apoptosis, cancer, and heart disease and failure.²

Every action that reduces unnecessary plastic production and use is a critical step toward protecting our health and our environment. This is why Just Zero strongly supports L.D. 1928. This bill will phase out the use of health or beauty products, like shampoo, that are in small plastic containers, plastic wrappers or other single-use plastic packaging at hotels and lodging establishments.

Currently, four states – California³, Illinois⁴, New York⁵, and Washington⁶ – have already adopted laws banning the use of the small plastic containers and packaging. Moreover, many hotels are already voluntarily phasing out their use. For instance, in 2018, Marriot committed to ending the use

¹ Dr. Katie Pelch, [New Review Highlights Human Health Risks from Microplastic Exposure](#), Natural Resource Defense Council. (Jan. 13, 2025).

² David Azoulay et al., [Plastic & Health: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet](#), (Feb. 2019)

³ [CA Pub Res Code § 42372](#)

⁴ [IL Public Act 103-0934](#)

⁵ [NY Env Conserv L § 27-3203](#)

⁶ [WA 70A.245.140](#)

of small single-use plastic toiletries at all their properties.⁷ In 2019, Hyatt⁸ and InterContinental Hotels Group did the same.⁹

These small hotel toiletries generate a tremendous amount of needless waste. For instance, Marriot estimates that its ban on single-use plastic toiletries will eliminate 500 million small single-use plastic bottles from being thrown away every year.¹⁰ This amounts to saving 1.7 million pounds of single-use plastic per year.¹¹ IHG Hotels & Resorts estimates that its ban will stop 200 million mini-bottles from being used and discarded annually.¹²

Often these bottles and containers are only partially used and for a brief period of time before being discarded.¹³ Moreover, mini-plastic bottles and tubes are not recyclable because they're too small for recycling machinery to sort through.¹⁴ This means that they're littered, landfilled, or incinerated.

Importantly, when hotels move away from single-use plastic bottles they often replace them with reusable dispensers. This is not only a tremendous environmental win that eliminates waste, but also a cost-saving mechanism for businesses. Studies have found that switching from single-use plastic toiletries to reusable dispensers can save hotels between 30% and 70% of their amenity cost.¹⁵

Finally, the public is increasingly supportive of policies that reduce and eliminate needless plastic waste. A recent nationwide poll by Oceana found:

- 81% of U.S. voters support reducing the amount of plastic that is produced; and
- 80% of U.S. voters support policies that require companies to reduce single-use plastic packaging and foodware.¹⁶

Maine has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, and this policy continues that tradition by eliminating an unnecessary and easily replaceable source of pollution. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. We urge you to support L.D. 1928.

Respectfully submitted,
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Policy and Advocacy Director
Just Zero

⁷ Sophie Lewis, Marriott, [The World's Largest Hotel Chain, Plans to Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Toiletries by 2020](#), CBS (Aug. 28, 2019).

⁸ Jordan Valinsky, [Hyatt is Eliminating Travel-Sized Plastic Toiletries](#), CNN Business (Nov. 19, 2019).

⁹ IHG Hotels and Resorts, [End of the Road for Bathroom Miniatures as IHG Opts for Bulk-Size Amenities to Reduce Plastic Waste](#), (Jul. 30, 2019).

¹⁰ Mary Helen Sprecher, [Upping the Sustainability Game by Outlawing Mini Bottles of Toiletries](#), Sports Destination Management (Jul. 19, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Washington Department of Ecology, [Mini-Toiletries in Lodging Law](#).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Danielle Beurteaux, [Single-Use Plastic Packaging May be Checking Out of the Hotel Toiletry Market](#), Packaging Dive. (Jun. 5, 2023).

¹⁶ Oceana, [U.S. Voters Support Policies that Reduce Single-Use Plastics](#) (Feb. 6, 2025).