
**Testimony in Support of LD 1928,
An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-use Plastic Containers**

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Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Vanessa Berry and I am the Sustainable Maine Program Manager for the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1928.

Lodging establishments are uniquely positioned to reduce waste and improve sustainability. Many hotels have already taken steps in this direction, implementing energy-efficient systems, offering housekeeping and laundry services upon request, composting food waste in restaurants and convention areas, and providing reusable water bottles to guests.

LD 1928 would build on these efforts by phasing out the use of single-use plastic toiletry containers in favor of refillable dispensers or non-plastic alternatives. These small plastic bottles – typically two to six ounces and made from PET, HDPE, or LDPE – are often too small to be sorted properly by recycling systems and are generally destined for landfills. Refillable dispensers not only reduce plastic waste but also minimize the waste of product and can save businesses money over time.

Maine would join a growing movement of states and companies working to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics. California enacted similar legislation in 2019, and states like New York, Illinois, and Washington have followed suit. Leading hotel chains, including Marriott International, have also adopted policies to eliminate single-use plastic toiletry bottles in their properties.

LD 1928 provides a practical and flexible approach by allowing establishments with more than 50 lodging units until January 2030 to phase out their existing stock, with until January 2032 for establishments with fewer than 50 lodging units. The delayed implementation will provide time for businesses to transition to refillable and non-plastic alternatives.

We respectfully urge the Committee to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 1928. Thank you for your time and consideration.