



Surfrider Testimony in **Support of LD 1928**

An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-use Plastic Containers

Good morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and esteemed members of the ENR committee. My name is Mariel Geiger and I'm here representing the Surfrider Foundation, Maine chapter in strong support of LD 1928.

Both nationally and globally Surfrider prioritizes the reduction of plastic waste, most specifically single use plastic. One of our newest initiatives is the Ocean Friendly Hotels Program, which expands on the success of our Ocean Friendly Restaurants campaign. Collectively our ocean friendly businesses are demonstrating a very tangible impact. In just the last 6 months our Ocean Friendly Hotels **prevented approximately 620,000 single-use plastic water bottles and 930,000 mini toiletry bottles** from polluting the ocean or ending up in landfills. Our Ocean Friendly Restaurants **serve over 38 million single-use plastic-free meals a year**.

I share these numbers with you, not only to highlight the scale of impact, but to underscore a key point, that there is a widespread desire by business owners to adopt sustainable alternatives to single use plastics.

I would also like to highlight the careful and collaborative work that my colleague from Oceana, along with bill sponsors, have done in crafting this proposed legislation. The attention to fairness and feasibility means that lodging establishments will have the time and support needed to migrate to a reusable model - without undue burden.

We have talked at length regarding the negative impacts of plastic on human health, wildlife and the environment as a whole. However I believe it's a prudent reminder to revisit and acknowledge the undeniable magnitude of the devastating effects of toxic plastic material and microplastics, when considering initiatives like LD 1928 that are an effective measure to eliminate highly unnecessary single use plastic.

The Surfrider Foundation thanks you for sharing our vision of a toxic free planet and for your continued commitment to making Maine a safer and healthier place for everyone.

Mariel Geiger | Maine Chapter Climate Action Chair and Policy Lead
[Surfrider Foundation Maine Chapter](https://www.surfrider.org/maine) | climate@maine.surfrider.org
Protecting & preserving the world's oceans, beaches and coastline!