



Maine Conservation Voters

Inform. Vote. Protect.

Testimony in support of LD1928, *An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-Use Plastic Containers*

May 12, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished member of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Cathy Breen. I am the Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I'm speaking in support of LD1928, *An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-Use Plastic Containers*.

As this committee understands well, plastics pose a serious threat to the health of our ocean and the creatures who live in our oceans. While we all do our best to add our plastics to our local recycling efforts, we know that plastics break down but never really go away. Rather they turn into microplastics that have already pervaded our oceans and lakes, and, quite stunningly, our bodies and brains. According to a recent study, researchers examining the brains of deceased human beings found that the amount of microplastics accumulated in their specimens doubled from 2016 - 2024. And that average amount is enough to fill a plastic spoon.¹ The same is true for the ocean fisheries that Maine's economy depends on - lobsters, oysters, alewives and more have disturbing amounts of microplastics in their bodies.

The best way to reduce the spread of microplastics in our environment is to reduce the use of plastics in general, and LD1928 will help with that. This bill would phase in the elimination of plastic containers for toiletries in lodging establishments in Maine. Using a threshold of 50 rooms, lodging establishments would have either 5 or 7 years to phase in this change. This gives the industry plenty of time to prepare for this change, and switching from single-use to large bottles can save businesses money in the long-run. Large hotel chains like Marriott, Hyatt and Hilton are already making this change.

1

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/the-human-brain-may-contain-as-much-as-a-spoons-worth-of-microplastics-new-research-suggests-180985995/>

Maine would join several other states in this effort: New York, Washington, Illinois, and California. But Maine's bill proposes smaller penalties than these other states. We urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD1928. Thank you for your consideration.