



# Pass the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

Surfrider Foundation advocates for laws aimed at reducing sources of plastic pollution, including prohibition of easily littered and pervasive single-use plastics, such as plastic bags, straws and polystyrene foam, as well as more comprehensive legislation to address source reduction of plastic pollution.

## PROBLEM

Plastic pollution is a grave climate and environmental justice problem that threatens marine ecosystem health, critical components of the food chain, communities and coastal economies. The U.S. produces more plastic waste than any other country in the world, at an estimated 42 million metric tons each year. With only 9 percent of plastic ever recycled, most of this waste ends up mismanaged and polluting our environment, including our air, water, seafood and more. An estimated 11 million tons enter the ocean each year, causing harm to marine life including the threat of plastic ingestion and entanglement to endangered species. Additionally, plastic production exacerbates our nation's reliance on and emission of harmful fossil fuels.



## SOLUTION

Surfrider calls upon Congress to pass the *Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act* to address the plastic pollution issue affecting our environment and communities.

**Support:** The *Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act* (S. 984/H.R. 2238) to strongly address the plastic waste crisis by reducing the source of plastic pollution. Key components of this legislation include:

- Require producers of packaging, containers, and food-service products to design, manage, and finance waste and recycling programs.
- Ban certain single-use plastic products that are not recyclable.
- Ban single-use plastic carryout bags and place a fee on alternative carryout bags.
- Prohibit plastic waste from being shipped or re-shipped to developing countries.
- Place a pause on new plastic facilities until EPA updates and creates important regulations on those facilities.
- Prohibit toxic chemicals from being included in compostable products.
- Provide funding for pilot programs for removal and prevention of microplastic pollution.
- Establish pilot programs to implement reuse and refill technologies.
- Ensure translation services are provided for non-English speaking communities and accessibility services for the disability community.