



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### *BANNING SMALL PLASTIC BOTTLES FOR TOILETRIES AT HOTELS*

**S.543 – Kaminsky**

**A.5082 – Englebright**

AN ACT prohibiting hotels from distributing small plastic bottles containing hospitality personal care products to guests.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Single-use plastic pollution is a growing problem in our bays, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and oceans. The World Economic Forum estimates that if we do nothing to prevent this pollution, we will be seeing more plastic than fish by weight in 2050. The 18 billion pounds of plastic pollution that ends up in our oceans each year never fully breaks down. Instead, this plastic photo-degrades into small microplastics which make their way into our waters, where they are often consumed by aquatic life. When aquatic life ingests plastic, their life expectancy is cut in half. Microplastics also absorb persistent organic pollutants (long-lasting toxic chemicals like DDT, PAHs, PCBs) present in our waters, and these toxins can bioaccumulate up the food chain to us.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

New York has become a leader in the fight against plastic pollution with its state-wide bans on plastic bags and polystyrene foam. Another common form of single-use plastic pollution is bottles, including the plastic bottles of soap, shampoo, lotion, and other personal care products provided to customers by the hotel industry. New York City hotels alone dispose of an estimated 27 million plastic toiletry bottles annually, which often end up in landfills, incinerators, or local waterways.

Many large hotel chains, including Marriott and InterContinental Hotels Group, have already begun to switch out the single-use plastic bottles for refillable dispensers or reusable options, while California has become the first state to ban single-use plastic toiletry bottles at hotels. New York banning these unnecessary and wasteful single-use plastic bottles at hotels will provide significant reductions in the plastic pollution that threatens our waterways, wildlife, and public health. This law would take effect on January 1, 2024.

#### **CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS**

##### **S.543 / A.5082– Ban small plastic bottles for toiletries at hotels**

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*CCE is an 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment*

March, 2021