



April 29, 2025

RE: Urging State Legislators To Stop HB565/SB1822 Regulation of Auxiliary Containers

We, the undersigned Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR), urge the State of Florida to stop HB565/SB1822 Regulation of Auxiliary Containers.

Florida's beaches, waterways, and communities are being inundated with plastic pollution. Now, HB565/SB1822 would make matters worse by expanding the existing plastic preemption, invalidating existing local laws, and preventing local regulations of many types of materials. If passed, the bill would update the definition of "auxiliary containers" and prevent the regulation of single-use and reusable bags, bottles, cups, wrapping and containers sourced from plastic and various other materials to the state. **Since the State Legislature won't pass legislation to reduce plastic pollution, the onus has been put on small businesses like us in Florida to lead the way.**

In Florida alone, over 40 businesses participate in [Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program](#) (OFR) serving over 1 million single-use plastic-free meals a year. This voluntary program recognizes restaurants that are committed to reducing single-use plastic by eliminating plastic bags, plastic bottles, expanded polystyrene foam, and more.

Studies show restaurants can save between \$3,000 and \$22,000 by eliminating single-use plastic. One of Surfrider's OFRs saves \$900-2,000 a year by running a glass bottle return system after reaching their break-even point. Another OFR saves over \$4,000 a year by switching to reusable wine cups, ramekins, and other reusable containers.

Reliable plastic-free alternatives made from paper, fiber, bamboo, hay, and wood are more available than ever before, yet they are still more expensive than plastic. Restaurants should be able to choose the best plastic-free foodware products for their



business without financial barriers. **If local governments in Florida had the authority to regulate plastic products, it would inspire even more free-market innovations and lower the price of plastic-free alternatives for restaurants.**

As Floridians and small business owners, we urge the Legislature to put a stop to HB565/SB1822 to ensure Florida's beaches, ocean, communities, and economy are healthy and thriving for generations to come. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Restaurant Representatives of:

Cali - South Tampa

Cali - Brandon

Cali - Tampa Palms

Cali - St. Petersburg

Essensia Restaurant & Bar - Miami

Gardenias Bistro - Tavernier

Miami Yacht Club - Miami

The Butcher & The Bar - Boynton Beach

The Tiny Turtle - Cocoa Beach