

# Protect Our Coasts, Waterways, and Communities from Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution in our ocean and inland waters affects all Americans. We depend on our ocean, waterways, and Great Lakes for recreation, economic security, and overall public health. Unfortunately, plastic production creates environmental and economic damage from start to finish, including the release of an estimated 10 trillion pre-production plastic pellets into our nation's waterways each year. To prevent these harms, the Surfrider Foundation supports legislation that prohibits the release of plastic pellets.

## PROBLEM

**Current law allows the plastic industry to discharge trillions of pre-production plastic pellets directly into America's waterways and ocean with little to no enforcement.**

Plastic pellets, also known as "nurdles," are the pre-production building blocks of nearly all plastic goods. Due to the low cost of production, pellets are often washed down drains or dumped if they come in contact with other materials like dust and dirt. They are also often spilled both in the shipping and production process, finding their way into our waterways.

## SOLUTION

Congressional action is needed to prohibit the release of plastic nurdles from production, packaging and transport facilities to protect local water quality, beaches and wildlife from harmful plastic pollution.

### **Support: S. 2337/ H.R. TBD Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act.**

This is straightforward legislation that requires the Environmental Protection Agency to prohibit the discharge of plastic pellets from facilities that make, use, package, or transport those materials; and update all existing permits and standards to reflect those prohibitions. This is a breakaway bill from the far more comprehensive Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (S.3127/HR. 6053).



Nurdles look like fish eggs and pose major risks to wildlife, including sea birds, fish and marine mammals that mistakenly consume them.