



Writing Love Letters to the Sea:

Using creativity to influence policy

What: [The Lost Art of Love Letters](#) and the Surfrider Foundation have teamed up to engage participants in Love Letters to the Sea for Surfrider's 2021 Coastal Recreation Hill Day. Express your sentiments and solutions for Surfrider's federal priorities in a colorful handwritten letter or postcard.

Why: Personal, hand-written letters are a really effective tool for reaching legislators. They can cut through the noise of scripted emails, phone calls and action alerts (which all have their place) and will be read in a different way by your elected officials.

Who: Send letters to your federal Representative or Senator.

Find the mailing address of yours at: [Common Cause](#)

How: Use heart, humor and facts in your letter. Share your ocean stories and why it is important to support plastic reduction legislation, clean water protection, climate change policy, and/or ocean protection. Artwork, poetry, puns and quotes will make your letter visually and emotionally appealing.

Supplies:

- The Basics: Paper, envelope, pen, art supplies & postage stamp (*Chapter or Club funds may be used to purchase stamps, however, please coordinate with your treasurer and be sure to log the expense as lobbying.*)
- Get Creative: Repurpose old magazines, cardboard boxes, brown bags, maps, and charts for your letter/postcard & envelope. Use coffee or fruit juice as natural paints.

Possible talking points to include in letters:

[Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act](#)

- Require producers of packaging, containers, and food-service products to design, manage, and finance waste and recycling programs
- Create a nationwide beverage container refund program (10 cents for all beverage containers!)
- Ban certain single-use plastic products that are not recyclable, including plastic carryout bags and foam foodware



- Prohibit plastic waste from being shipped to developing countries
- Place a temporary pause on permits for new plastic facilities

Want to write about [climate change](#) or [clean water](#) instead? Click links or [here](#) to learn more.

Last but not Least:

Post on social media to inspire others to take action!

Tag: @surfrider @lostartofloveletters #SurfriderHillDay

Plastic Pollution - #breakfreefromplastic

Climate Change - #RisingSeas

[How-to Instagram panels + sample images found here](#)

- Show off your artwork and inspire others by posting a photo of your finished product
- Snap a photo of you placing your letter in the mailbox or dropping it off at the post office
- Post a video of yourself reading your letter aloud or turn it into a song or spoken word poem you can perform
- Share an image of your surfboard (or favorite recreation tool) & your letter. You can use a dry erase marker to write your favorite line or facts.
- In addition to the above tags you can choose to [add your recipient's handle](#) and/or challenge one of your friends to create their own!
- Fun fact: If you use the #SurfriderHillDay, your posted image will automatically appear on the social tracking section of Surfrider's [Coastal Rec Hill Day webpage!](#)

More info at:

[Pass the BFFP Pollution Act](#)

www.lostartofloveletters.com

go.surfrider.org/coastalhillday

