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May 12, 2025

House Environmental and Natural
Resources Committee
houseenvironmentandnaturalresources@rilegislature.gov

Dear Committee Members:

Subject: Concerns Regarding House Bill H6205 - Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act

Ocean State Job Lot strongly opposes House Bill H6205. While the goal of improving recycling is laudable, this bill will negatively impact Rhode Island through:

- **Increased Consumer Costs:** Producer fees mandated by the PRO will inevitably raise prices for consumers.
- **Harm to Business Climate:** New regulations and administrative burdens will further strain Rhode Island's already challenging business environment.
- **Complex Bureaucracy:** The establishment of a single PRO and advisory board creates unnecessary complexity and costs.
- **Market Uncertainty:** Reliance on a single PRO to determine recyclability and reimbursement rates generates instability for businesses and municipalities.
- **Potential Disruption of Existing Recycling Programs:** Shifting responsibility to the PRO could undermine current successful local initiatives.

As a Rhode Island retailer and distributor, Ocean State Job Lot anticipates increased costs of goods and significant new administrative burdens under H6205, impacting our profitability and potentially necessitating price increases for our customers.

We urge you to reconsider H6205 and explore less burdensome, more effective alternatives to achieve our shared environmental goals. This bill, as currently structured, will harm Rhode Island consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Conforti".

John D. Conforti, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

JDC:emg