



May 13, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-6205 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING AND PAPER ACT

Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, We write to express our support for House Bill 6205, which would establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for the recycling of packaging and paper products in Rhode Island.

This legislation represents a transformative and fiscally responsible step forward in modernizing our state's recycling system. By shifting the financial burden of recycling from municipal budgets to the producers of packaging and paper products, House Bill 6205 has the potential to save Rhode Island cities and towns tens of millions of dollars. These funds could be redirected to core local services such as public safety, education, and infrastructure improvements.

The EPR model proposed in H-6205 addresses a broad portion of recyclables. Plastic packaging accounts for 41 percent of the plastic waste stream, and this bill ensures producers take financial and operational responsibility for managing that majority share, not just a small fraction.

House Bill 6205 also brings additional benefits by:

- Expanding the types of materials accepted in recycling programs,
- Standardizing practices statewide for greater clarity and efficiency,
- Upgrading recycling services for all Rhode Islanders,
- And introducing public space recycling, helping address the more than 90 percent of litter that the deposit system leaves behind.

Crucially, this bill also ensures that producers fully fund:

- State oversight and enforcement,
- Statewide public education and outreach,
- Local administrative costs,
- And reimburse at least 90 percent of municipal operating costs related to recycling.

This is a comprehensive and well-designed policy that supports environmental sustainability while delivering real financial relief to taxpayers and municipalities.

We respectfully urge support of House Bill 6205 and appreciate you taking the time to consider our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi", with a stylized, cursive script.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Environment and Natural Resources Committee