

Via Electronic Mail

May 13, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chair, House Environment & Agriculture Committee
House Lounge, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: CLF **Opposes** House Bill No. 6205 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act

Dear Chair Bennett:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 6205 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act. CLF **opposes** this bill.

CLF is a member-supported non-profit advocacy organization working to protect public health and the environment and build healthy communities in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Through its Zero Waste Project, CLF aims to improve waste management through source reduction, recycling, and composting, and to protect our communities from the dangers posed by unsustainable waste management practices.

A Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations to Protect our Environment and Natural Resources from Plastic Bottle Waste (“Study Commission”) met numerous times from mid-2023 through April 2025 and heard testimony from sources that provided various perspectives, including from beverage industry groups, convenience store organizations, environmental organizations, and state agencies.

H- 6205 blatantly ignores the good work conducted by the Study Commission over this two-year period by omitting the key element necessary for getting plastic bottles and litter out of the environment: a bottle deposit return system (or “bottle bill”). H-6205 puts forth an extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) program that only benefits the beverage industry, and not the Rhode Islanders who deal with litter and waste daily.

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee has introduced legislation (House Bill No. 6207) that would implement an EPR program for statewide recycling of packaging and printed paper and a bottle bill program for beverage containers.

For these reasons, CLF opposes H-6205 and instead asks the Committee to support H- 6207, which includes the proven, studied systems needed to fight the plastic waste crisis.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Stang
Senior Attorney
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Darrèl Brown, Vice President, Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation