

CLEMENTS MARKETPLACE

May 13, 2025

Hon. David Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition to House 6206 and House 6207

Clements' Marketplace is a family-owned business that has been serving customers in the Portsmouth area since 1980. We have succeeded for all of these years by listening to our customers, and by doing everything possible to keep prices reasonable.

Keeping prices reasonable has been a challenge the last several years, as inflation has pushed up the cost of nearly all items sold in our market. We know this has been difficult for our customers, particularly those on fixed or limited budgets.

That is why we are writing today to share our opposition to legislation that would impose a \$.10 bottle redemption fee on most bottled and canned beverages sold in our store. On just a 24-case of bottled water, which would add \$2.40 in extra cost to our customers. That is real money, particularly on popular beverages that customers buy nearly every week.

Some might say that customers should just redeem bottles to receive the bottle fee back. We believe this would be inconvenient for many households, and very challenging for seniors and others with limited mobility. For those who are unable to return used bottles, this legislation is nothing more than a tax.

Rhode Island consumers and businesses are already stretched thin due to inflation. A \$.10 per bottle fee would only make matters worse - for our customers and for our business. This creates a huge issue in that we will not only stand to lose beverage sales but if a consumer is travelling, they will do their entire shop with our border states. This loss of business will certainly result in a loss of jobs, which is something the State of Rhode Island cannot afford to let happen. The passing of these bills would be a detriment to Rhode Island families, small business, and our employees, please oppose House bills 6206 and 6207.

Sincerely,

Brian Pacheco

Brian Pacheco
GM Clements' Marketplace