

**Testimony to the Rhode Island House Committee on Environment and Natural
Resources In Support of House Bill 6206**

By The Aluminum Association

May 13, 2025

Chair Bennett and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on Rhode Island House Bill 6206. My name is Curt Wells and I am in the Government Relations group at the Aluminum Association. The Aluminum Association is the trade association representing U.S. aluminum manufacturers and their suppliers, and Association member companies supply 100% of the aluminum sheet that is produced in the US and used to make aluminum beverage cans.

I have several items that I would like to share with you today from the perspective of the Aluminum Association.

First, the demand for used aluminum cans far exceeds the supply due to a lack of consumer aluminum recycling. Nationwide, beverage can recycling is at 43%, and the overall consumer recycling rate is even lower in Rhode Island, at 26%. However, our members that make aluminum sheet for beverage cans are ready, willing, and able today to incorporate substantially more used cans into their production of new aluminum sheet as it is their preferred raw material. Aluminum is not produced in the US in sufficient quantities today to meet demand and the country is heavily reliant on imports of primary aluminum while there is a huge untapped supply of

domestically sourced and stable secondary (or recycled) aluminum that can be made available through increased recycling.

The proven policy solution for increasing Rhode Island's beverage can recycling rate is to financially incentivize consumers to return their used beverage container after consumption through refund of a deposit on the container paid at the point of sale. This system can achieve beverage can redemption and recycling rates of over 90% and provides clean, segregated material for reuse, thus substantially increasing the recycled content contained back into the can. Based on a long global track record of bottle bills achieving high beverage can recycling rates, the Aluminum Association supports House Bill's 6206 implementation of a modern bottle bill.

However, we believe that the implementation of a stand-alone bottle bill represents a missed opportunity to catalyze consumer recycling rates in Rhode Island even higher than could be accomplished through the simultaneous implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation along with a modern bottle bill. House Bill 6207 proposes this comprehensive solution that would both bolster the existing residential curbside collection program for recyclables, including aluminum products beyond just beverage cans, while also minimizing litter that is generated by the away-from-home generation of beverage containers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony today in support of House Bill 6206 and I ask that you support it with your **Yes** vote to advance it for further House consideration.