

Testimony in support of H6206: Beverage Containers Recycling Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2025

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I support the bill because it implements one of the the most impactful recommendations that came out of the 18 months of work of the “Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations to Protect our Environment and Natural Resources from Plastic Bottle Waste”.

Finally, after years and years of introducing bottle bills that never passed, mainly because of persistent disinformation, lobbying and opposition of the packaging and beverage industries, the Commission has issued a comprehensively researched and evaluated recommendation for bottle recycling. We finally have a chance to actually do something against polluting our land and waters with plastic trash, and our bodies with harmful microplastics, by passing H6206.

The bill implements a deposit return system for bottles—though it is lacking a more comprehensive extended producer responsibility program for packaging and paper products, as in the more impactful bill H6207.

The deposit return system is modeled after solutions that already work well in other states, including Massachusetts and Connecticut, which have proven, much more effective recycling refund systems. As a result, high (up to 90%) beverage container recycling rates can be achieved, and plastic pollution from packaging can be greatly reduced.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2025.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Spears for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

May 12, 2025

71 Fales Avenue
Barrington, RI 02806; (203) 687-6415; clclt17@mac.com