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May 12, 2025

House Environmental and Natural
Resources Committee
houseenvironmentandnaturalresources@rilegislature.gov

Dear Committee Members:

Subject: Strong Opposition to House Bill H6206 - Beverage Container Recycling Act

Ocean State Job Lot, as a Rhode Island business and on behalf of our customers, strongly opposes House Bill H6206. While we support enhanced recycling, this mandatory ten-cent container deposit is a regressive tax that will harm Rhode Island consumers and businesses.

Our key concerns:

- **Increased Consumer Costs:** The deposit functions as an immediate price hike on all covered beverages, disproportionately affecting low-income individuals.
- **Retailer Burden:** Handling returns will create significant logistical and resource challenges, especially for smaller stores, potentially leading to health concerns.
- **Consumer Inconvenience:** Requiring consumers to store and return containers will likely limit participation.
- **Single PRO Concerns:** Mandating a single Producer Responsibility Organization limits competition and could lead to higher fees.
- **Unproven Effectiveness:** Deposit systems have yielded mixed results in other states.

H6206 will increase costs to consumers, burden businesses, and create unnecessary complexity. We urge you to reject this harmful legislation and pursue more effective recycling solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Conforti".

John D. Conforti, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

JDC:emg