

May 12, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 6207 (McEntee) – Support – Association of Plastic Recyclers

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the [Association of Plastics Recyclers \(APR\)](#), I am submitting written comments in **support for H 6207 (McEntee)**: *Provides extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper, recycling of beverage containers, and provides general provisions for oversight of single-stage producer organizations.*

[The Association of Plastic Recyclers](#) represents the businesses that recycle the plastic packaging collected today through Rhode Island's residential recycling programs. APR's membership represents 90% of the recycling processing capacity for post-consumer plastic packaging in the United States and Canada.

APR supports this bill because recycling plastic is a win for the environment and the economy. Plastics recycling saves energy, reduces pollution, and reduces use of fossil fuels. Recycling #1 and #2 plastic bottles can save [75 to 88% of the energy used to make virgin plastics and reduce GHG emissions by 70%](#).

Plastics recycling is also essential to domestic manufacturing and supplying recycled feedstocks to US businesses. This bill will take plastic bottles out of the Bay and off the streets of Rhode Island, and instead put them back into the hands of U.S. manufacturers to be remade into new products that reduces the use of new plastic.

APR members are committed to increasing the recycling rate for plastics. In fact, US recyclers have the built capacity today – the existing conveyor belts, sorters, and other equipment – to increase the plastic container recycling rate by 40% if there were more plastics collected. This is why we need your help to reinvest and expand recycling in Rhode Island to ensure **more plastic containers and packaging are collected for recycling.**

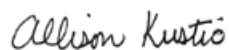
H 6207 is a proven solution that will best serve the needs of Rhode Island residents, businesses, and the environment for decades to come. For the past year, the Rhode Island legislative committee heard from experts and researched available options to reduce plastic pollution and bottle waste. This bill carries forward the recommended actions as the best approach for Rhode Island.

Some stakeholders may criticize H 6207 as a complex bill, but the truth is that there is no one solution to increase recycling and reduce plastic waste. There are many different types of plastics used in many different applications, and there is not one program that best captures and recycles all those different materials. APR members recycle five billion pounds of plastic packaging every year from both curbside recycling programs and bottle deposit programs. Both recycling refunds and EPR for packaging are needed solutions, and this bill brings together the best examples of each program and combines them to streamline efficiency and maximize impacts. This is why H 6207 has strong support from both environmental groups and business groups, as seen by this [joint op-ed published in The Boston Globe](#).

APR requests your support for H 6207 as a proven solution to reduce litter, recycle more plastic packaging, and support US businesses in the transition to a circular economy.

APR staff are available at your convenience to discuss these comments. Please contact Allison Kustic, State Government Relations Manager, at allison@plasticsrecycling.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Allison Kustic'.

Allison Kustic

State Government Relations Manager, The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC RECYCLERS (APR)

[The APR](#) is a U.S.-based, international non-profit association and the only North American organization focused exclusively on improving the recycling of plastics. Our membership represents over 90% of the recycling processing capacity for post-consumer plastic packaging in the United States and Canada. Our mission is to improve all aspects of the plastic recycling process to create a sustainable business model for recyclers that minimizes plastic waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and natural resource extraction. Our work connects companies that make, use, and otherwise support recycled plastic to overcome challenges identified by reclaimer and recycler members. Our tools and resources help companies design packaging that can be recycled, support innovations that overcome existing recycling challenges, and

encourage stable and reliable markets for post-consumer recycled content. All so that the plastic recyclers—those that we represent—can successfully turn plastic waste into a new resource.