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From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:04 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: support for H6207 from Barry Schiller

Dear House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

This is Barry Schiller of North Providence writing to support H6207 about beverage containers and packaging

It is an long bill as it is tries to be broad in converge, comprehensive. careful, accommodate diverse interests , it promotes more efficient refillable containers, requires reporting and updates, puts DEM in charge, and makes every effort to meet legitimate concerns from small businesses, though all that makes the bill rather lengthy..

Our current system of dealing with packaging is not working to save resources, reduce litter, or boost recycling. Working on part of this issue in the 1980s, I recall voters in 24 of 25 cities and towns in RI supported a "bottle bill" in non-binding referenda. But we advocates were no match for the slick lobbyists from the beverage container industries, and despite their promises of support for recycling and litter control efforts, once the bottle bill went down to defeat they were on planes out of here and those promises forgotten. The throwaway beverage container industries still have no real plan to make anything better.

The legislature then instead did pass a litter law (including a litter tax) but decades later it is clear that the litter law, education efforts, a short-lived DEM Litter Task Force, and that litter tax, later scooped for the General Fund and then discontinued, have failed to solve the problem of litter from beverage containers or the waste of resources in such packaging. With the landfill filling, we need to do it differently.

As a lifelong bicyclist, I can attest to the crap including beverage containers, and now nips, that often accumulates on shoulders of our streets and roads, sometimes dangerous for cyclists as we may need to swerve to avoid the litter, especially dangerous in the case of beverage containers.

I lived in Oregon in the middle 1970s which already had a container deposit law in place. People were already used to it, and in my estimation it gave Oregonians enhanced pride in their beautiful state and a more general desire beyond beverage containers to keep it clean. RI is also a beautiful state, but our failure to address beverage containers as surrounding states do sends an unintended message that RI is OK with litter and the waste of resources. H6207 can prove that wrong, and instead help build up pride in this great state

I thank the sponsors, co-sponsors, and the Committee for their attention to this matter

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