

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Brett Svendsen <brett.svendsen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:12 AM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 6207 - Bottle Bill

Dear Members of the Rhode Island Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6207, introduced by Rep. McEntee, which aims to create a Deposit Return System for beverage containers and a producer responsibility program for other forms of packaging.

As a dedicated volunteer for coastal cleanups with organizations like Save the Bay and ORCA, my wife and I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of single-use plastic bottles on our environment. Over the years, we have collected thousands of pounds of trash from our local beaches and waterways, with a significant portion being plastic bottles. These bottles clog storm drains, float into rivers and streams, and break down into microplastic bits that pollute the Bay. The use of single-use plastic bottles must stop if we are to leave a cleaner, healthier world for future generations.

Single-use beverage containers are a massive litter and waste problem. Many beverage containers of all materials never get recycled because there wasn't a convenient option to recycle them or because they were too contaminated from being collected in our mixed curbside program.

Bottle bills work. For over a year, environmental groups, elected officials, and stakeholders studied solutions to beverage bottle waste and pollution. The study commission heard from recycling experts from around the country, examined data from other states, and dove deep into our own Rhode Island recycling and waste systems. It's now clearer than ever that bottle bills work to reduce litter and improve recycling.

House Bill 6207 reflects the recommendations of the study commission to create a Deposit Return System for beverage containers and a producer responsibility program for other forms of packaging. These systems would be paid for by producers and have no impact on the state budget, creating a world-class recycling system that both reduces litter and improves recycling.

Please support H6207. By doing so, you will be taking a significant step towards protecting our environment and ensuring a sustainable future for Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brett Svendsen  
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