

Lou Mansolillo

From: Craig O'Connor <craig.r.oconnor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 2:32 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of H6207

Dear Committee Clerk Louis Mansolillo,

Below is my testimony in support of H6207.

I am concerned about the intertwined problems of litter and waste. A bottle bill is a proven policy solution that addresses both of these issues.

For over a year, a bipartisan study commission brought in experts from across the country, examined our state's recycling and waste systems, and listened to local stakeholders. The results are clear - recycling refund programs work. In fact, the Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study found significantly less litter in states with bottle bills than in states without one.

I live next to a nice little park by Hope Pond in Scituate. I often spend time cleaning up the trash, much of which is cans and bottles. The bottle bill will help reduce this litter, keep plastics out of the Pawtuxet River, make the park nicer for the kids who attend camp there in the summer, and wrote birds, turtles and fish from the impacts of plastic refuse. H6207 creates a recycling refund system as well as an extended producer responsibility program that incentivizes major brands to develop product packaging that is easier to recycle. It's important that a recycling refund system be included because these programs:

- Capture a higher percentage of cans and bottles for recycling than curbside recycling alone
- Reduce the amount of litter in communities
- Reduce the amount of waste sent for disposal (in our case, to the landfill).

A bottle bill is good for the environment, good for the local economy, and popular! Please support H6207. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Craig O'Connor

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