

May 13, 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 – Constellium

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

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony **strongly supporting H 6207**, a bill that would make Rhode Island a leader globally in high performance recycling systems by implementing two proven policies—extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper and a bottle bill for beverage containers.

As a company that recycles just in the United States more than 20 billion beverage cans a year, the availability of scrap is critical to our operations. Constellium manufactures aluminum cansheet that our customers use to produce cans for popular beverages such as Coke, Pepsi, and Budweiser, and our products currently include more than 80% recycled content. We strive to promote the circularity of our products by recycling used cans and transforming them into new ones. Ensuring a steady supply of UBCs is one of our top priorities, and we use UBCs from across the United States.

The aluminum industry and the beverage industry can save tremendous energy and capital by remelting these cans instead of using new primary material for cans. Recycling aluminum requires only 5% of the energy needed to produce primary aluminum from extracted materials, improving resource efficiency and decreasing our reliance on imported critical minerals. Consumer preference for this highly recyclable packaging choice has experienced tremendous growth, and the industry has invested heavily to monetize this advantage.

We believe that reducing litter and achieving efficient recycling can only occur through a system combining EPR with a modern bottle bill, also known as a Deposit Return System (DRS) or recycling refund.

H 6207 would implement a well-designed EPR for packaging program and a well-designed bottle bill that would complement each other in terms of the problems they solve and their

timing. Constellium encourages this committee to pass H 6207 for consideration by the full House as it will benefit industry, the environment, local and state government, and all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long, sweeping diagonal line extending upwards and to the right.

Delphine Dahan Kocher
Vice President – Public Affairs