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recyclingpartnership.org

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 – The Recycling Partnership

**Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee;** for the record, my name is Dylan de Thomas, and I represent The Recycling Partnership. I am testifying in support of House Bill 6207.

I lead state policy work for The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit that collaborates with companies, communities, and policymakers across the country to strengthen public recycling programs.

We have studied and visited systems around the world and identified that the key ingredients to growing and improving recycling and achieving a circular economy are extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper and Recycling Refunds, also known as bottle bills or Deposit Return Systems.

I want to highlight how well-designed and -implemented comprehensive EPR and Recycling Refunds programs – in tandem – can bring great environmental and economic benefits to residents of Rhode Island – these programs will create and maintain jobs across the state.

As an Oregonian, home to what is often cited as the most effective of the 10 states with a bottle bill, I have both regularly participated in a very easy-to-use Recycling Refunds system that doesn't just get me my 10-cent deposit back, but 20 percent on top of it, because retailers see the benefit of having me spend it in their store.

We also see the impact of both the Recycling Refunds and developing EPR policies on the business community, seeing investment in family-owned businesses across the state, delivering more and better feedstock for a hungry manufacturing sector, delivering jobs while supporting the environment and growing the circular economy.

We respectfully encourage members of the committee to vote “yes” HB 6207 and continue to work on this important issue and legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dylan de Thomas  
VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs  
The Recycling Partnership