

Lou Mansolillo

From: Stop The RI Bottle Tax <info@stoptheribottletax.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:33 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Delekta's Testimony: H-6207

I own Delekta's, which has been operating for 37 years. I have real concerns about the future of my small business in Warren. The prices of the products we sell are skyrocketing while we're paying more out of pocket at every turn for things like rent and utilities.

That is why I was distressed to hear that the General Assembly is considering a new tax that would make everyday products even more expensive. H-6207 would impose a 10-cent deposit on every bottle and can sold in the state, causing a sharp price increase in costs that would hurt my business and every Rhode Islander hard.

Locally owned restaurants and other small businesses like mine have been through a lot. We're trying to cover the cost of rising rent, increased taxes and the inflation that is making everything we buy more expensive. We're still feeling the effects of the pandemic shutdown too. An additional cost to our customers like a bottle deposit fee could be the final straw. We'd have to decrease the hours of workers or even lay off some workers, which we do not want to do.

In such difficult times, it makes no sense for lawmakers to consider a new tax that would hurt working families, local businesses and our employees the hardest. Haven't we been through enough? Our state already has a good curbside recycling program. And there are other ways to make it even better that do not require raising prices for those who can least afford it.

I ask that lawmakers stand with local restaurants like mine, our employees and our customers and not move forward with H-6207.

Thank you for your consideration.
Signed,

Eric Delekta - Delekta's