May 9, 2025

The Honorable David Bennett, Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Rhode Island General Assembly
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for 2025 – H 6207, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Establishing the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act and Beverage Container Recycling Refund Program

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee:

The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a national nonprofit advancing a circular economy through smart public policy and producer responsibility. On behalf of NSAC, I express strong support for 2025 – H 6207. We are grateful to Chair Bennett and Representatives McEntee, Knight, Boylan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend, Donovan, Handy, and Kazarian for sponsoring this timely and important legislation.

This bill would create a producer-funded container recycling refund system to reduce litter, improve recycling rates, and support local job growth—without new costs to taxpayers.
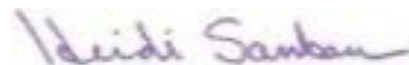
According to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the state's recycling rate was 29.6 percent in 2022—below the 35 percent target set more than a decade ago. Rhode Island and New Hampshire are the only New England states without a container deposit law. States with these systems—like Maine and Vermont—achieve redemption rates as high as 90 percent. H 6207 would allow Rhode Island to follow suit by:

- Reducing litter in public spaces and waterways,
- Improving recovery of high-quality recyclables,
- Creating jobs in redemption and processing, and
- Lowering cleanup and disposal costs for municipalities.

NSAC has supported similar efforts across the country and witnessed their success. We encourage the Committee to advance H 6207 and would be honored to serve as a resource as this legislation is considered.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a more sustainable Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council