

Lou Mansolillo

From: Jane Arnold <arnlang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:16 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Please pass bill H6207

I strongly support the passage of H6207 and S996. I lived in Massachusetts when the bottle bill there was passed, and lived with that bill for 23 years. I moved to New York State, and lived with that bill for 13 years, and I was appalled to find out Rhode Island has no such bill.

Every objection someone in RI raised to the bill had already been addressed by Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, and Maine. When I wrote to Jed Thorp, of Save the Bay, he kindly explained the exhaustive research that the commission did to create a superior bill for Rhode Island.

For over a year, environmental groups, elected officials, and stakeholders studied solutions to beverage bottle waste and pollution. The study commission heard from recycling experts from around the country, examined data from other states, and dove deep into Rhode Island's recycling and waste systems. It's now clearer than ever that bottle bills work to reduce litter and improve recycling.

They also provide employment. I regularly took empty containers to independently-owned centers who knew me, accepted my count, and paid me. And people I saw on long daily walks in urban Massachusetts were clearly collecting containers for income. It's not ideal, but it's money.

We cannot continue treating our earth like a bottomless refuse pit. Bottle bills work. Please support S996 and H6207.

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