



May 13, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chairman
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.6206, An Act Relating to Health and Safety
H.6207, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Beverage Containers Recycling Act

Dear Chairman Bennett:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition oppose House Bills 6206 and 6207 which would impose a 10¢ deposit fee on all beverage bottles and cans in Rhode Island.

The bottle bills being heard today would drive up costs for both businesses and consumers at a time when Rhode Islanders are already grappling with inflation and a high cost of living. By adding a 10¢ fee to nearly every beverage sold in the state, these proposals would raise prices for retailers working to keep their shelves stocked—and for families simply trying to afford everyday essentials like bottled water and soft drinks.

Our members support increasing the state's recycling rate but not by imposing a financial burden on local businesses and consumers.

For these reasons, we request that you take no further action on House Bills 6206 and 6207.

Sincerely,

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Beverage Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Environment and Natural Resources Committee members