

Lou Mansolillo

From: JAMES FARRELL <jlf1066@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:58 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Bill #: H6207

Dear Sirs:

Single-use beverage containers are a massive litter and waste problem. Plastic beverage bottles clog storm drains, float into rivers and streams, and break down into microplastic bits that pollute the Bay. And many beverage containers of all materials never get recycled because there wasn't a convenient option to recycle them or because they were too contaminated from being collected in our mixed curbside program.

Bottle bills work. 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 our own Rhode Island recycling and waste systems. It's now clearer than ever that bottle bills work to reduce litter and improve recycling.

House Bill 6207 by Rep. McEntee reflects the recommendations of the study commission to create a Deposit Return System for beverage containers and a producer responsibility program for other forms of packaging. These systems would be paid for by producers and have no impact on the state budget and create a world-class recycling system that both reduces litter and improves recycling. Please support H6207. Those of us who live in South County see discarded nip bottles allover the place. It's disgraceful that people are such disrespectful slob.

The claim that a bottle deposit is a tax on consumers is a load of nonsense. If you are too lazy to return the bottles, then you should eat the costs of the deposit. That said, it is equally incumbent on the RI government to mandate and assure that there is an adequate and convenient recycling system. Stop protecting the liquor industry monopoly and let food retailers sell beer in return for entering the recycling chain. Retailers may hate the inconvenience and added costs, but they love the profit margins on selling beer, wine and spirits. The liquor industry should stop whining and man up to protect our state from further harm!

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