



May 13, 2025

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

RE: House Bill 6207 (McEntee) – Support – Primo Brands (Poland Spring)

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony strongly supporting House Bill 6207, legislation to enhance recycling in Rhode Island by implementing two proven policies—extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and a beverage container deposit system.

We are Primo Brands, a leading North American branded beverage company with a focus on healthy hydration that delivers domestically and sustainability sourced offerings. Our trusted brands include Poland Spring®, PureLife® and Saratoga®. At Primo we are working to minimize our environmental impact through more sustainable packaging, incorporating more recycled materials into packaging, and advocating for more effective recycling systems. Primo Brands is a leader in reusable packaging with the largest reuse network in the US utilizing our reusable, multi-serve 3 & 5 gallon bottles and innovative brand packaging which uses recycled plastic, aluminum and glass.

We use PET bottles because they are lighter to transport, result in lower emissions and use less water in the manufacturing process. In 2024, 35% of our PET bottles were made from recycled plastic – higher than the industry average. And we introduced aluminum bottles for our Poland Spring and PureLife brands. In 2023, we introduced 100% recycled plastic 700mL and 1L bottles.

Primo is working to foster a dynamic circular economy where bottles are recycled directly into bottles. But we cannot create a circular economy or generate more recycled feedstock on our own. That's why we are advocating for a modern deposit return system that is convenient, efficient, accountable, technology-based, industry-run, and ensures all revenue generated stays in the system to support operations and improvements alongside a proven EPR policy.

House Bill 6207 would do just that with a comprehensive high performance recycling policy that establishes a convenient system that avoids material loss, achieves high return rates and makes bottle to bottle recycling reality. In addition, House Bill 6207 will help industry by creating a stable, locally sourced supply of recycled materials which will help continue to expand our recycled packaging.

Establishing a deposit return system alongside an extended producer responsibility policy will dramatically increase the availability of material for all types of beverage containers. Bottled water needs high quality recycled material – a deposit return system is the best way to recover high quality food grade plastic, reprocess that plastic with little loss to be used as packaging again bringing to life a circular economy.

Right now, Rhode Island has a 26% recycling rate despite 80% of households having recycling access. Food residue, material contamination and low participation hold the system back, and EPR plus a deposit return system would significantly improve Rhode Islanders' recycling rate.





Additionally, House Bill 6207 will help to address litter. By incentivizing consumers to redeem their deposits as part of a dedicated bottle recycling stream, litter on the beaches and in the water will be dramatically reduced with collected beverage containers being easily recycled and processed into new beverage containers here in the US – all of which is good for human and environmental health.

House Bill 6207, a combined EPR and deposit return system, will provide the most cost-effective system to increase recycling that benefits your constituents and that helps to catapult Rhode Island towards a circular economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Donohue
Vice President
Government Affairs

