

Dear Committee,

**I am the coordinator for Be the Solution to Pollution, an all volunteer shoreline cleanup group on the South Coast of Massachusetts and shorelines in Northern Rhode Island.
I am also a member of Zero Waste Providence.**

I completely support House Bill 6207.

It is a comprehensive bill and that is extremely important in order to create positive change by significantly reducing beverage container litter.

I have led cleanups in Massachusetts since 2011 and in Rhode Island since 2022 so I have a very good understanding of what is littered in the environment, especially along shorelines.

In Massachusetts, the majority of single use containers that we pick up are noncarbonated beverages. This happens because Massachusetts has a weak bottle bill that only covers carbonated beverages. We separate plastic beverage containers on cleanups, photograph them and count every one.

**Our cleanups in Providence and Warwick, however, have every type of single use beverage container since there is no deposit incentive to return these items.
Our cleanup on S. Water street yielded 280 single use plastic bottles alone and while cleaning up around India Point we collected six 33 gallon bags of single use beverage containers. During our April cleanup with the group ORCA, one volunteer picked up 64 single use beverage containers.**

I have included and labeled photos by city, town and state.

As more and more beverages are introduced to markets, the beverage container litter will get much worse unless we take action to address this problem.

We cannot clean our way out of this mess. Yes, there are other types of litter and much of it is sent to the landfill, but beverage containers are a consistent source of debris that can be eliminated from the environment and recycled with this bottle bill.

I started my group 14 years ago to protect kids and future generations from as much local pollution as possible. Many of our volunteers are children putting in the work to clear shorelines because they care and want to make a difference.

I hope that this bill passes because we need to dramatically reduce litter and increase Rhode Island's recycling rate. This would truly make a difference.

Thank you,

**Mary Lou Nicholson
Founder/Coordinator
Be the Solution to Pollution**