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From: Melissa Smith <team@speak4.co>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:59 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Please Support Smarter, Sustainable Recycling Reform for Rhode Island—H 6207 and S 996

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I'm a lifelong Rhode Islander who cares deeply about our communities, our environment, and making sure working families and small businesses aren't stuck paying for an outdated recycling system.

That's why I'm asking you to support H 6207 and its companion bill S 996.

These common-sense bills take a modern approach to reducing litter and improving recycling in Rhode Island. They create an efficient beverage container recycling system and shift more responsibility onto the producers of packaging waste—rather than leaving the cleanup and costs to taxpayers or our towns.

Right now, too many beverage bottles and cans are ending up as litter—in our Bay, in our parks, and along our roads—or being dumped in the Central Landfill. And municipalities are often left to foot the bill.

H 6207 and S 996 would help fix that.

The legislation would establish a modern Bottle Bill system so people can easily return their beverage containers for a refund. It also introduces Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) ensuring that large companies pay their fair share to support recycling.

These bills would create local jobs and support businesses that recycle or reuse materials. It's a smart, forward-thinking way to make Rhode Island cleaner and stronger—both environmentally and economically.

We all want to do our part, but we need a modern, well-designed, and efficient recycling system to make that possible.

H 6207 and S 996 are important steps in the right direction.

I urge you to co-sponsor H 6207 and S 996, and advocate for their swift passage this session. Please support these two bills and help move them forward.

Thank you for your commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable Rhode Island, and thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
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