

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Stop The RI Bottle Tax <info@stoptheribottletax.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** La Esquinita Market: H-6207

Good morning/afternoon,

My name is Norma Pacheco, and I am the owner of La Esquinita Market in Providence. I am here to share my strong opposition to H-6207, which would impose a 10-cent deposit on nearly all the beverages sold at my store. This is a tax, plain and simple. When we open our doors every morning, we aim to provide our customers with quality products and delicious food at a price that they can afford. This bill will raise costs for my business and for my customers who just want to purchase their favorite products at a reasonable price. Ten cents may not seem like a lot, but on a \$1.00 soda, bottled water, or iced tea, that's a 10% price increase. And on a standard 24-bottle case of bottled water, that's an extra \$2.40.

My business and my customers are still struggling with inflation and increasing costs across the board.

The last thing the General Assembly should be considering is raising costs for basic products. Any proposal that would implement a bottle deposit system could also force residents to shop at stores outside state lines so that they can purchase their favorite products without the tax, hurting Rhode Island businesses and employees at a time when we're already struggling to keep up.

Rhode Island already has a great curbside recycling system, and there must be a better way to keep our beaches and parks clean without adding new costs to my businesses and our customers. But a new bottle tax is not the answer.

I am here today in order to urge each of you to oppose H-6207.

Thank you.

Norma Pacheco  
La Esquinta Market  
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