

Lou Mansolillo

From: Stop The RI Bottle Tax <info@stoptheribottletax.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:20 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Roberto's: H-6207

Good afternoon,

My name is Paul Palumbo, and I am the owner of Roberto's in Bristol.

What we try to do is very simple: keep prices affordable for our customers and pay our employees a fair wage. But new bills like H-6207 that will increase prices for families and businesses like mine will make reaching those simple goals that much harder, and for what?

A bottle bill would increase the price of nearly every beverage sold in the state, from water to beer. For a business like mine, this increase in price would severely cut into our already-tight bottom line. Stores are going to be forced to raise prices or look to save money elsewhere by cutting wages or hours to cover the increased costs we'll be paying to keep our restaurant running.

Across Rhode Island, people are feeling the pain of high prices. Rent, utilities and the price of groceries are hurting our economy and making it harder for so many of us. And this proposed bottle bill would make life more expensive for everyone involved.

I fully support effective recycling programs to protect our environment but it shouldn't be done on the backs of Rhode Islanders and our local businesses. I ask you to find alternative approaches to recycling that will protect our environment without adding burdens to those who are already struggling. Please reject any bill that implements a bottle deposit system.

We want to be a partner to each of you and contribute to a stronger community. But after a while we just can't keep absorbing more costs and keep our business open.

Thank you.

Paul Palumbo
Roberto's
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