

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives.

I am writing in strong support of H6207/S996, which would create a bottle deposit system (often referred to as a "bottle bill") and establish an extended producer responsibility program. As a resident of Richmond, I have witnessed firsthand the pervasive issue of beverage bottle litter in our parks, rivers, roadsides, and highway ramps. A bottle bill has proven to be an effective solution in other states, and I believe it will help address these challenges here in Rhode Island.

I was encouraged by the bipartisan study commission that brought together experts from across the country. It is now clearer than ever that recycling refund systems not only reduce litter but also improve recycling rates.

I know that many residents (admittedly not all) in my town support the bottle bill. Over the years, I've organized clean-up efforts in collaboration with the Friends of the Saugatucket. Those who participate in clean-ups quickly realize that roadside litter is not just an environmental issue; it is also a public safety issue. The majority of bottles we collect are beer, liquor, or "nips," often discarded on highway ramps or rural corners to avoid being caught drinking and driving with an open container.

A bottle bill is not only good for the environment but also beneficial for our local economy and the safety of our residents. I respectfully urge you to support the passage of H6207/S996.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your service to the State of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Samantha Wilcox, individually  
President, Richmond Town Council  
5 Pleasant Street  
Richmond, RI