

May 19, 2026

The Honorable David Bennett
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Bennett and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our members, I write in opposition to H 8415, which would ban the use of black plastic takeout containers.

Rhode Island's restaurant industry supports responsible environmental policy and has complied with multiple recent packaging-related mandates, including the bans on Styrofoam containers and plastic stirrers. While each measure may be manageable on its own, the cumulative effect of these successive changes has created a constantly shifting regulatory landscape that makes compliance increasingly difficult for small businesses.


Restaurants are repeatedly required to identify new approved products, adjust purchasing systems, use or dispose of remaining inventory, and manage evolving supplier availability, all while operating under tight margins and ongoing workforce and cost pressures. This continual cycle of regulatory change creates uncertainty in ordering and inventory planning, particularly for small, independent operators who lack dedicated compliance staff.


Even where alternative products may be available at similar cost, the broader challenge is stability and predictability. Frequent product-specific bans force businesses to repeatedly overhaul operations and absorb transition costs, often on compressed timelines.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose H8415.

Sincerely,

Ryan Moot
Manager of Government Affairs
RI Hospitality Association

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