



May 27, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett  
Chairman  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

[HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov)

Oppose H 7910 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act

Dear Chairman Bennett and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in opposition to H 7910 - Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act.

While we appreciate the intent of improving recycling systems and reducing waste, this legislation would create a costly and complex new regulatory structure that will ultimately increase costs for businesses and consumers throughout Rhode Island.

H 7910 imposes broad new financial and administrative obligations on manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and producers involved in packaging and paper products. The significant compliance costs, producer responsibility dues, reporting mandates, and operational requirements established under the legislation will be passed through the supply chain and reflected in higher consumer prices.

The bill also creates substantial uncertainty for Rhode Island businesses. It establishes a new producer responsibility organization with authority over reimbursement methodologies, fee structures, recycling targets, reporting requirements, and material standards that will continue evolving over time. This level of regulatory complexity will be particularly challenging for small and mid-sized businesses already navigating inflationary pressures, labor shortages, and rising operating costs.

We are also concerned that the proposal may place Rhode Island at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states that have not adopted similarly expansive packaging mandates.

Businesses operating across state lines could face inconsistent compliance obligations and increased administrative burdens that discourage investment and growth in Rhode Island.

We also question whether the timelines, infrastructure requirements, and statewide implementation mandates outlined in the legislation are realistic given the current capacity of regional recycling systems and service providers.

The Chamber supports thoughtful environmental stewardship and efforts to improve recycling outcomes. However, we believe collaborative, market-driven approaches and regional coordination would be more effective and less economically disruptive than the expansive regulatory framework proposed in H 7910.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to hold H 7910 for further study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, continuous line that forms a shape resembling a 'Z' or a similar abstract mark.

Laurie White  
President  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce