

May 27, 2026

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the [Association of Plastics Recyclers \(APR\)](#), I am submitting written comments in **support for HB 7911: Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act** – to provide and establish a comprehensive program for extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper, and for recycling of beverage containers.

[The Association of Plastic Recyclers](#) represents the businesses that recycle the plastic packaging collected today through Rhode Island's residential recycling programs. APR is a U.S.-based, international non-profit association and the largest North American organization focused exclusively on improving the recycling of plastics. Our membership represents 90% of the recycling processing capacity for post-consumer plastic packaging in the United States and Canada.

APR is a member of the Coalition for High Performance Recycling (CHPR), which is working to advance policies to building advanced, efficient recycling systems. CHPR is comprised of a diverse group of consumer brands, environmental nonprofits, material manufacturers, packaging suppliers, and trade associations united in support of extended producer responsibility for packaging, and recycling refund programs. Together, these policies create the highest-performing recycling system with broad access to recycling services, high recycling rates, robust collecting and recycling infrastructure, and clean material supply streams for remanufacturing.

**APR supports this bill because recycling plastic is a win for the environment and the economy.** Plastics recycling saves energy, reduces pollution, and reduces use of fossil fuels. Recycling #1 and #2 plastic beverage bottles can save [75 to 88% of the energy used to make virgin plastics and reduce GHG emissions by 70%](#).

Plastics recycling is also essential to domestic manufacturing and supplying recycled feedstocks to US businesses. This bill will take plastic bottles out of the bay and off the streets of Rhode Island, and instead put them back into the hands of U.S. manufacturers to be remade into new products that reduces the use of new plastic.

APR members are committed to increasing the recycling rate for plastics. In fact, US recyclers have the built capacity today – the existing conveyor belts, sorters, and other equipment – to increase the plastic container recycling rate by 40% if there were more plastics collected. This is why we need your help to reinvest and expand recycling in Rhode Island to ensure **more plastic containers and packaging are collected for recycling.**

Five billion pounds of post-consumer plastics are recovered for recycling from U.S. sources each year, and more than [92% of plastics are recycled within](#) North America, supporting jobs and local economies across the country. [Recycling plastics, metal, glass, paper, and other materials supports over 680,000 jobs](#) and contributes more than \$37.8 billion in wages and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues across the U.S.

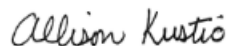
HB 7911 is a proven solution that will best serve the needs of Rhode Island residents, businesses, and the environment for decades to come. Rhode Island's legislative committee heard from experts and researched available options to reduce plastic pollution and bottle waste. This bill carries forward the recommended actions as the best approach for Rhode Island.

APR members recycle five billion pounds of plastic packaging every year from both curbside recycling programs and bottle deposit programs. Both recycling refunds and EPR for packaging are needed solutions, and this bill brings together the best examples of each program and combines them to streamline efficiency and maximize impacts.

**APR requests your support for HB 7911 as a proven solution to reduce litter, recycle more plastic packaging, and support US businesses in the transition to a circular economy.**

APR staff are available at your convenience to discuss these comments. Please contact Allison Kustic, State Government Relations Manager, at [allison@plasticsrecycling.org](mailto:allison@plasticsrecycling.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Kustic".

Allison Kustic

State Government Relations Manager, The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)