


THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO.....R-26-40..... DATE 4-30-26.....

APPROVED: .....MAYOR

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT
RECYCLING REFORM LEGISLATION S3012 & H7911

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, low recycling rates in Warwick pose a serious threat to public health and local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, when recycling is contaminated or neglected, waste, especially plastics, ends up polluting our waterways, greenspaces, and streets, harming wildlife and reducing residents' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the issue is particularly urgent given that Rhode Island only currently recycles 26% of recyclable packaging such as bottles, cans, and boxes; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island also experiences high levels of recycling contamination, with over 120,000 tons of recyclable materials thrown away into the Central Landfill each year; and

WHEREAS, municipal budgets are strained by the cost to collect recycling, and to educate residents about what is and is not recyclable; and

WHEREAS, one such recommendation is to support statewide bottle deposit and extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation, as proposed in S3012 by Senator Mark McKenney and H7911 by Representative Carol Hagan McEntee; and

WHEREAS, implementing a recycling refund program would significantly increase beverage container recovery by creating an incentive-based recycling system that complements, rather than relies on, curbside collection; and

WHEREAS, states with bottle deposit laws consistently report higher recycling rates, reduced litter, more accessible redemption options at retail locations, and higher-quality recyclable materials; and

WHEREAS, an EPR program would be funded by the consumer brand companies; and

WHEREAS, the recycling reforms set out in these bills would stand to save the state and its municipalities over \$15 million, by requiring that consumer brand companies fund collection and education costs for recycling; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires that the state address recycling contamination and plastics pollution in both dedicated legislation and more expansive efforts to address plastics, including extended producer responsibility, in legislation such as S3012 and H7911.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick City Council hereby respectfully requests the General Assembly to support the passage of 2026-S3012 & 2026-H7911.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Representatives and Senators from the City of Warwick, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Chairs and Clerks of the House and Senate Environment Committees.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN MUTO
COUNCILMAN KIRBY

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL