



May 27, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chairman
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7911, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act

Dear Chairman Bennett,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing in opposition to House Bill 7911. This bill would establish a comprehensive program for extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper, and for recycling of beverage containers.

Last session, the General Assembly enacted legislation that tasked the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) and the Department of Administration (DOA) to:

“commission a statewide needs assessment to determine the infrastructure, policy, and programmatic requirements necessary to support a statewide redemption and recycling plan including packaging materials, paper products, standard and miniature size beverage containers including, but not limited to, aluminum and bimetal containers, glass containers, plastic containers, and other priority materials as designated” by DEM, RIRR and DOA.

The law mandates that DEM procure a third-party consultant, and file an interim report by April 1, 2026, and a final report no later than December 1, 2026. On April 1, 2026, DEM filed an interim report with the General Assembly in accordance with the law. In its interim report, DEM advised that it has tentatively selected a third-party vendor, and work is expected to begin in April.

DEM also advised that it worked with RIRRC to allocate the appropriate funds. The process mandated by the Legislature in 2025 is currently well underway.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

For these reasons, we ask the Committee to not take action on House Bill 7911 and allow the study that was enacted into law last year be completed before proceeding.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Beverage Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Environment and Natural Resources Committee members