



RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

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On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

In Support of H-7911 – Extended Producer Responsibility For Packaging and Paper Act

House Environment & Natural Resources Committee

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The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports **H-7911** and respectfully urges its passage.

A comprehensive program providing for deposits on and recycling of beverage containers will help Rhode Island mitigate water pollution, prolong the capacity of our central landfill, and prevent unsightly and harmful litter. The Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act creates the necessary revenue for education and outreach efforts in the state so that our population can fully understand and participate in this program. Education is often overlooked as one of the best ways to address the climate crisis and other environmental issues. In fact, strengthening climate education and engagement was identified by scientists as one of six key societal transformations needed to address the climate crisis in a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences¹. **H-7911 is more comprehensive and preferable to H-7910, and I encourage you to pass H-7911.**

The RIEEA membership includes over 70 organizations² including Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Save The Bay, the Rhode Island Conservation Districts, and Rhode Island College, as well as over 400 individuals including youth and students. RIEEA's membership and supporters care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, health, and economic stability.

¹ <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/5/2354>

² <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>