

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Karen <haxtonkent@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:56 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** OPPOSE - H7910 and H7911

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Name: Karen Haxton

H7910, H7911 - OPPOSE

Chairman Bennett and Members of the Committee,

I own and operate Haxton's Kent Liquors, and I am writing to ask you to oppose House Bills 7910 and 7911. I share the goal of better recycling outcomes in Rhode Island, but these bills would not get us there. They would shift significant costs and operational burdens onto small retailers and the customers who walk through our doors every day.

Small stores are not built to be redemption centers. A bottle bill turns every neighborhood liquor store into a collection facility. That requires space we do not have, staff time we cannot spare, and sanitation handling for sticky, unrinsed containers that creates real health and pest issues in tight retail footprints. The cost of compliance falls hardest on the smallest operators — the ones least able to absorb it.

Consumers will pay the difference. Deposits, handling fees, and EPR producer fees do not disappear into a corporate budget. They move through the supply chain and land on the shelf price. For a category already carrying high excise taxes, another layer of cost will push more Rhode Island customers across the border to Massachusetts and Connecticut, taking sales tax revenue with them.

The General Assembly already asked for the homework to be done first. Last session, H6207 Sub A directed the Department of Environmental Management to study these exact questions. That assessment is not yet complete. Voting on sweeping new mandates before reading the report the legislature itself commissioned undercuts the purpose of ordering it in the first place.

EPR results elsewhere have been mixed. Programs in other states have run into high startup costs, governance disputes between producer responsibility organizations and municipalities, and slower-than-promised diversion gains. Rhode Island should learn from those rollouts — including what has and has not worked — before committing to a parallel system.

There is a better path. Strengthen the curbside and municipal recycling infrastructure we already pay for. Improve contamination rates through education. Target the specific waste streams where current recycling falls short, rather than building an entirely new privatized collection system on top of the one we have.

I respectfully ask the committee to vote no on H7910 and H7911, and to wait for the DEM assessment before considering legislation of this scope.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Haxton  
Owner, Haxton's Kent Liquors  
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