

May 26, 2026

**Representative David A. Bennett
Chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 203
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee:

We at Pernod Ricard respectfully urge your support for HB 7911/SB 3012 which would establish an effective and convenient producer-funded recycling system in Rhode Island at the most efficient cost, while reducing litter and protecting the environment.

A hybrid Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Recycling Refunds (RR) model presents the best opportunity to drive higher recovery and recycling rates for beverage containers, while ensuring investment in improving systems for all packaging and paper products.

Recycling Refund (RR) programs – also known as Bottle Bills or Deposit Return Systems – drive high recycling rates for plastic, glass, and aluminum beverage containers. Pernod Ricard is committed to ensuring this material does not end up in the environment and works to incorporate more recycled material in our packaging. Despite 80% of residents having access to recycling, Rhode Island only has a 26% recycling rate for packaging. Well-designed RR programs have been shown to achieve recycling rates of 80-90% for beverage containers – a rate that cannot be achieved through EPR alone.

EPR is a policy that holds brands and companies (“producers”) responsible for the collection and recycling of packaging they place on the market, shifting the financial responsibility for these programs from municipalities to producers.

RR places a small, refundable deposit on purchases of bottles and cans. When consumers return their beverage containers to designated drop-off locations, that deposit is refunded – incentivizing consumers to recycle containers that are at risk of becoming litter. Recycling refund deposits are not a tax. Ocean State residents will be able to get their full \$0.10 deposit back via convenient takeback locations.

We urge you to support businesses like ours, who want to see a higher-performing recycling system and a more reliable supply of high-quality material that we can use repeatedly in our packaging.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 7911.

Sincerely,
Pernod Ricard USA