



May 27, 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:

The National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) wants to express our support for Rhode Island House Bill 7911, the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Act. NAPCOR is a nonprofit trade association representing the polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic packaging industry in North America.

NAPCOR supports well-designed extended producer responsibility (EPR) and recycling systems that increase recovery rates, strengthen consumer participation, reduce contamination, and improve the quality of recyclable materials collected. Effective EPR and deposit return systems (DRS) can play an important role in creating cleaner, higher-value PET streams that are more readily recycled back into new food-grade packaging, supporting a stronger circular economy for beverage bottles and other PET packaging.

In alignment with NAPCOR's mission to promote and protect the PET package, these programs should focus on improving collection and recycling outcomes without imposing material restrictions, functional bans, or mandated source reduction requirements that could undermine packaging performance, consumer access, or recycling system efficiency.

PET is the most recycled plastic in the US and around the world and is universally recognized by the #1 resin identification code. Its versatility and sustainability make it the material of choice for a wide array of packaging, including beverage bottles, clamshells, cups, and trays.

PET packaging is uniquely positioned for circularity because it can be collected, recycled, and remanufactured into new packaging and products, including new food-contact packaging. However, achieving higher levels of circularity depends on access to consistent supplies of high-quality recycled PET feedstock. Policies that improve collection rates and material quality help strengthen domestic recycling infrastructure, support investment in US recycling capacity, and increase the availability of recycled PET needed to meet growing consumer brand sustainability commitments.

The PET industry has also made significant progress in source reduction through lightweighting innovation, with PET bottles today approximately 40% lighter than they were in 2000. Compared to alternative materials such as aluminum and glass, PET packaging can deliver lower greenhouse gas emissions and lower overall system costs while remaining fully recyclable.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to help advance a modern, efficient recycling framework that supports higher recycling performance and material circularity. While Rhode Island may be a smaller market, legislation that successfully aligns EPR and deposit systems could serve as an important model for other states considering similar approaches to improve recycling outcomes and strengthen domestic recycling systems.

NAPCOR and its members stand ready to work with Rhode Island policymakers to develop legislation that strengthens recycling systems, supports domestic circularity, and preserves access to safe, recyclable packaging materials.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if NAPCOR and our members can serve as a resource in this important endeavor. By embracing a balanced approach that leverages PET's proven sustainability, Rhode Island can achieve its environmental objectives while ensuring a thriving and efficient recycling system for all.

Sincerely,



Laura Stewart
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