



**Member Focused; Results Driven**

May 27, 2026

**OPPOSE**

The Honorable David A. Bennett  
Chair: House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island State Senate  
The State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill 7911**

Dear Chairperson Bennett,

My name is Scott Bromberg, and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

On behalf of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our opposition to House Bill 7911, which would enact EPR and bottle deposit systems in Rhode Island. RIFDA was fortunate enough to be invited to participate in the study commission of plastic waste by the General Assembly. Our group openly listened to the testimony of advocates for bottle deposit systems and alternatives to bottle deposit systems that could reduce the amount of plastic waste in our state. RIFDA still has several concerns about an EPR/bottle deposit system in Rhode Island. Last session, our industry testified in opposition to all the bills related to bottle deposit systems. None of the proposed bills passed last session and instead a statewide needs assessment commission was adopted 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. This process has already begun and as of April 1, 2026, DEM filed the report to the general assembly. RIFDA believes it is inappropriate to push forward with new legislation on these issues while the needs assessment has not even been completed. If the state is truly looking for the best solution for issues around EPR and bottle deposit systems, passing

RIFDA

~ 40 Higginson Ave. ~ Central Falls, RI 02863 ~

~ Tel: 401-431-0880 ~ Fax: 401-434-2496 ~ sbromberg@rifda.com ~ [www.rifda.com](http://www.rifda.com) ~

legislation ahead of the final report would be wasteful of the already committed resources and counterproductive to the purpose of the needs assessment.

It is for these reasons that the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association opposes the EPR/bottle deposit systems outlined in House Bill 7911. We appreciate the committee allowing the opportunity for us to share our position on these bills, and we hope that you will consider our testimony in deliberations.

Sincerely,



Scott Bromberg  
President & CEO  
RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. Christopher R Blazewski, Speaker  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Hon. Katherine S. Kazarian, Majority Leader  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Margaret Hogan Sweeney, Esq.  
M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Esq. &  
Jack Teear  
F/S Capitol Consulting, LLC