



Working for a Clean, Healthy Ocean that is Accessible to All

January 27, 2022

Representative David A. Bennett
Chairman, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: PLASTIC BOTTLE AND CONTAINER LABELING ACT
<http://webservice.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText22/HouseText22/H7064.pdf>

Dear Chairman, Bennett

Clean Ocean Access supports the entitled legislation.

This legislation is a great step for the Act on Climate and moves the action and conversation in the right direction to position the Ocean State as a leader for environmental sustainability. We support H7064 as it would prohibit the sale of miniature alcoholic beverage containers in Rhode Island.

Clean Ocean Access supports all efforts to curb the open spicket of single use plastics wreaking havoc on the environment. While convenient in design, the reality is that we find nip bottles littered along our roadways and tossed in bushes around streets and parks. Within the tens of thousands of generalized plastics bottles, we have itemized since 2013 as part of over 1,800 shoreline cleanups, we have recently documented specifically over three thousand nip bottles and that is just within our shoreline cleanups on Aquidneck Island, one can imagine there are many more. While the efforts of the community for cleanups are heroic, these efforts should not have to occur and unfortunately the material we were not able to remove has been littered into our oceans and waterways, ingested by marine and terrestrial life, and causing unknown consequences to the health of our planet. Plastic breaks down into smaller pieces and while horrific estimates of micro plastics in the ocean is in the billions, who really knows how much micro plastic is in the ocean, but even just one piece is too much."

The usage of single-use plastics for nip bottles may appear to be convenient and low-cost, but the definition of "convenience" is "the state of being able to proceed with something with little effort or difficulty" and upon closer inspection there is nothing convenient about these bottles. The source of these material is fossil fuels which is a finite resource and takes extreme effort and pollution to turn into HDPE, most notably carbon emissions. The cost to remediate the damage caused by these processes is unknown and we need to embrace universal responsibility rather than pushing the problem to the next generation. With the largest automotive companies in the planet now making a promise to shift away from fossil fuels and towards vehicles using renewable energy in the next decade, now is to the time to turn off the spicket on run-away single-use plastics such as single-use nip bottles. Fossil fuels are a gift that we have from the past events on our planet, but we should use them in the most responsible ways.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of advancing the ocean state to be a leader for the environment.

Sincerely,

Dave McLaughlin
Program Director
Clean Ocean Access

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