



New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

January 28, 2022

Testimony of New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

Rhode Island General Assembly
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**RE: HB 7065 – RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PLASTIC WASTE
REDUCTION ACT**

Chair Bennett, 1st Vice Chair Phillips, 2nd Vice Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Committee:

The New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) represents convenience store and gasoline retailers, independent transportation fuel distributors, and the businesses which supply them. NECSEMA members own, operate, and supply the nearly 500 convenience stores that employ 7,000 people in Rhode Island.

NECSEMA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments for the Committee's consideration. As proposed, HB 7065 would prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags in commerce and instead allow retailers to offer cardboard boxes, 100% recycled paper bags, or offer for sale reusable bags.

Over the years, NECSEMA has provided comment on various plastic bag related bills. Among our most important issues is a local preemption provision and limited exemptions. HB 7065 is satisfactory to us on both of those matters, so we are pleased to support the bill. However, we would prefer the penalties be less aggressive. While we would not defend non-compliance with the proposed requirements, we request the Committee reduce the proposed penalties of \$100, \$200, and \$500 in half to \$50, \$100, and \$250, which still provides deterrent value but are not excessively punitive.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our positions on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian P. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Brian P. Moran
Director Government Affairs

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