

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
RI House Committee on Small Business
RI State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7209 – An Act Relating to Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturing and Wholesale Licenses – Retail Licenses

Dear Chairwoman McEntee

On behalf of the RI Hospitality Association, we write in support of H.7209, which would permanently allow Alcohol to Go.

As the industry begins to slowly recover, restaurants continue to remain dependent on takeout sales. Alcohol To Go provides a much-needed revenue stream to an industry already struggling with reduced profit margins. Forward thinking and smart policy ideas such as this are exactly what the industry needs to keep doors open.

Restaurants have proven that Alcohol to Go makes sense for Rhode Island, with many establishments coming up with fun, creative ways to replicate the “night-out” experience for people in their homes. There is widespread public support for this initiative. A 2021 survey conducted by the National Restaurant Association found that 81% of Rhode Islanders support making Alcohol to Go permanent.


Rhode Island’s state budget will also benefit. When customers purchase a cocktail to go, they pay a 7% sales tax and a 1% local meals and beverage tax. State and local governments are looking to balance their budgets and additional revenue streams that aren’t a result of broad-based tax increases are an easy win.

Rhode Island’s restaurants are facing unimaginable challenges. Extending Alcohol to Go will help ensure that the industry that employs over 87,000 Rhode Islanders continues to be an economic driver for the state.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 401-223-1120 or sarah@rihospitality.org.

Sincerely,

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