

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FROM PLASTIC BOTTLE WASTE

14 March 2025

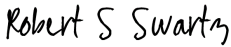
Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Chairman McKenney,

We would like to thank President Ruggerio and Speaker Shekarchi for the opportunity to participate in the Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations to Protect Our Environment and Natural Resources from Plastic Bottle Waste.

1. The Commission has yet to explore the potential benefits in recycle rates that would come from modernizing Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's infrastructure as an alternative to the cost of implementing a bottle deposit return system.
2. There has yet to be an adequate investigation into the time and cost of setting up a bottle redemption program, its infrastructure and who will ultimately bear those costs.
3. There will certainly be an additional cost to taxpayers if an extended producer responsibility or bottle redemption system is implemented. Costs will not only be incurred on deposit collection, but producers' gross profit will also need to be made whole. The cost of the system, which is assumed to be on producers, will inevitably be passed on to consumers.
4. Implementing a deposit return system does not consider the needs for individuals who are elderly, disabled or face transportation challenges. Requiring return to a centralized facility instead of investing more in curbside recycling, is inherently discriminatory.
5. The deposit return systems of our neighboring states currently are out of balance. Massachusetts has a 5-cent deposit per container and Connecticut has a 10-cent deposit per container. If Rhode Island were to implement a system with a 10-cent deposit, there would without a doubt be cross-border fraud, with Rhode Island paying out additional funds to Massachusetts residents. There is data to suggest that this is currently happening, where savvy Rhode Island residents are redeeming their containers to our neighboring states, where those containers were not sold.


Sincerely,

Signed by:


96325C9EADA4461...
Robert Swartz


Southern Glazer's Beverage Company

DocuSigned by:


B9DA08F58D21458...
Larry Coburn

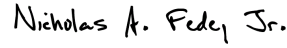
Seasons Corner Market

Signed by:


9E65629FD058484...
Scott Bromberg


Rhode Island Food Dealers Association

DocuSigned by:


7C85CF8FA9D004260...
Nicholas A. Fede, Jr.

RI Liquor Operators Collaborative

Signed by:


8B220DBEC18F4F1...
Jackie Mancini

Mancini Beverage