

Abby:

Good evening, members of the committee. My name is Abigail Goblick and I live in Barrington and I am a junior at Barrington High School. I am here to urge this commission to come together to agree on a 2024 Bottle Bill.

It is imperative that we take action to mitigate the harmful effects of single-use beverage containers. Our beaches have been polluted with containers. But it doesn't have to stay this way. We don't need to continue having single-use bottles lying around on our beaches. Countries such as Germany and Austria have been successful recycling so we should follow in their footsteps to protect our environment while providing inspiration to other places. I truly hope that I am able to walk on the beaches of Rhode Island soon where I am not able to see bottles lying across the area.

I acknowledge that this change may be challenging, particularly from industries that may stand to lose from such measures. However, we cannot allow short-term profit to outweigh the long-term health of our planet. By prioritizing the well-being of our citizens and environment, we can create a more sustainable future.

It is important to pass a bill now. Passing a bottle bill goes beyond simply preserving the aesthetics of our beaches, it is an opportunity to lead by example and protect our environment.

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