

To the members of the Plastic Bottle Waste Commission:

Thank you for listening today. My name is Willow Campbell and I live in Cumberland. I am a member of Ripples Of Change, a team of four homeschooled high school teenagers in Rhode Island, who a year ago won a global competition to bring awareness of Ocean Rights into our community. Our winning project was promoting the RI Bottle Bill through a video and social media campaign to inspire Rhode Island citizens to support this Bottle Bill.

Even though we are too young to vote we believe we have the power and the responsibility to speak up for the ocean and to create lasting legal change. Over the past year, we have dedicated ourselves to changing Rhode Island legislation by contacting representatives and spreading information about ocean rights and the urgency of getting this bill passed.

We have grown up with the ocean and are devastated to see one of our closest friends hurting. We have spent our lives reducing, reusing, and recycling but it is not enough, now is the time for reform. We are tired of just repeatedly doing beach clean-ups and promoting reusable straws. These minuscule actions are not enough to make a lasting impact and sustainable change. We want a clean and healthy future and know that Reform is the next step. We need to change laws and policies to keep plastic off of our beaches and out of our oceans.

This is exactly what the bottle bill is. It's something that will actually make a lasting impactful difference in our state. Getting it passed is the action our state should be taking now. We don't need any more bandaid solutions. We need to address the problem at the source, hold companies accountable for the waste they produce, and demand they take responsibility.

We are the youth of Rhode Island, we are the future of this nation. We are asking that the adults who hold the power, hear our voices and get the Bottle Bill passed. For our state, for our planet, and for our future we need the RI Bottle Bill now.

With Passion and Determination,  
Willow Campbell  
Cumberland, RI

Our winning video:  
Creating Ripples Of Change  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gU4qPTIc084>

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