

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Britto and members of the committee,

On behalf of our members, I write in support of S 2639, which provides a simple and practical clarification to Rhode Island's existing law on single-use plastic straws.


This legislation maintains the current "by request only" standard while allowing consumers the option to directly take a straw if they choose. This small adjustment improves efficiency for both customers and food service establishments, reducing unnecessary back-and-forth between staff and guests while still upholding the intent of the original law.

For restaurants and hospitality businesses, many of which continue to navigate workforce challenges and high operating costs, this added flexibility helps streamline service without increasing environmental impact. Importantly, the bill continues to discourage automatic distribution of plastic straws while respecting consumer preference and accessibility needs.

S 2639 strikes an appropriate balance between environmental responsibility and practical, real-world operations in food service settings.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,
Ryan Moot
Manager of Government Affairs
RI Hospitality Association

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