



House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

February 29, 2024

H 7357 – High-Heat Waste Facility Act

Sponsors: Reps. McGaw and Spears, Kislak, Cortvriend, Carson, Ajello, Cotter, Henries, DeSimone, Messier

Topher Hamblett, Executive Director

Testimony in Support

Save The Bay is in strong support of H 7357, which provides for a prohibition on the licensing of any new high-heat waste facilities in Rhode Island. We applaud Representative McGaw and her co-sponsors for introducing this legislation.

There have been several attempts to pass legislation that would facilitate the construction and operation of high heat waste facilities. These attempts have been backed by false, misleading claims of environmental benefits for states that “host” them. Thankfully, Rep. McGaw and many of her colleagues have vigorously and successfully opposed such efforts.

High-heat waste facilities perpetuate dependence on plastics, including single-use plastics, by creating demand to “feed the beast” to make such facilities profitable for their owners. This directly undermines the important policy initiatives to reduce our dependence on plastics by reducing demand. We note the current work of the Joint Plastic Bottle Waste Study Commission, which is exploring options for creating a bottle deposit program aimed at *reducing* plastics pollution.

History has shown that environmental justice communities are often targeted for the siting of high-heat waste and other facilities that cause air, water and noise pollution. The time has come to put this issue to rest by preventing, in law, high-heat waste facilities from ever being sited in Rhode Island.

Save The Bay urges this committee, and the full General Assembly, to do what is best for Rhode Island’s environment and its communities by passing H 7357.

Thank you for considering our testimony.