

Testimony in support of H7619: Toxic Packaging Reduction Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: March 21, 2024

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

The world is drowning in plastic trash. Anyone who has been walking the Rhode Island beaches can attest to that—and plastic packaging seems to be what washes up a lot.

Two types of plastic widely used for packaging are made of PVC and polystyrene. Both are difficult to recycle, with tons of PVC and polystyrene being buried in the landfill each year. Their manufacture leaves carcinogenic compounds and toxic additives that are contaminating the resulting PVC and polystyrene, migrating into any packaged food or cosmetics, and eventually poisoning the environment and endangering public health.

It is time to eliminate PVC and polystyrene from packaging materials, and this is why I support H7619.

Starting January 1, 2026, the bill will prohibit sale and distribution into commerce of any packaging, packaging component or reusable packaging that contains polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polystyrene. There are alternatives available, including using less plastic packaging in the first place.

Please bring the bill to a vote, in 2024. We will be reaching the capacity limit of the Johnston Central Landfill in a few years, so waiting any longer will be counterproductive.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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