



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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March 21, 2024

The Honorable David A. Bennett  
Chairman  
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: H 7619 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Toxic Packaging Reduction Act**

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7619, which would amend multiple provisions in the Toxic Packaging Reduction Act. DEM supports the portions of this bill which change effective dates for the state's ban on food packaging containing PFAS and is neutral on the remainder.

H 7619 proposes to delay the overall effective date of the state's ban on food packaging containing PFAS from July 31, 2024, to January 1, 2025. It also proposes to add an effective date of July 1, 2027, for use of a regulated chemical as a processing agent, mold release agent, or intermediate to be considered intentional introduction under the law. These changes will address concerns raised by packaging companies operating in Rhode Island regarding a lack of available alternatives to the currently used processing agents. The delay in the overall effective date will provide DEM with the time necessary to promulgate regulations implementing the ban.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to work with you to address the issues raised in this letter. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at [ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov](mailto:ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov) should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.  
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
The Honorable Terri Cortvriend  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director