

June 5, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903
Attention: The Honorable David A. Bennett

Re: Written Testimony on behalf of McLaughlin & Moran in Opposition to H8312

Dear Chairman Bennett and Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of McLaughlin & Moran, Inc., a family business founded in 1936 that warehouses and distributes beer, wine, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages throughout Rhode Island. **McLaughlin & Moran opposes H8312.**

H8312 purports to establish the Beverage Container Deposit Recycling Act, which would establish a container deposit law for beverage containers, where customers would pay a \$0.10 deposit for each beverage purchased and subsequently receive a reimbursement of the deposit after giving the empty beverage container to a participating retailer or redemption center to be recycled. The beverage companies and distributors would be responsible for the beverage container handling costs, totaling \$0.035 per container.

McLaughlin & Moran commends the efforts of the sponsors and Committee Members to address plastic pollution and litter and increase Rhode Island's recycling rate. H8312, however, is not the solution given the significant negative consequences that the bill would have on Rhode Island businesses, including McLaughlin & Moran.

H8312 would require McLaughlin & Moran to significantly alter its business operations. McLaughlin & Moran is not—and has never been—in the recycling business and thus is not equipped to receive or process recyclables from consumers. McLaughlin & Moran would have to divert crucial financial and operational resources from its day-to-day operations, which would impose a tremendous burden on nearly all areas of McLaughlin & Moran's business.

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Accordingly, McLaughlin & Moran opposes H8312 and appreciates your consideration of its input and perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Lapatin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Lapatin" clearly legible.

STEPHEN D. LAPATIN

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