



# RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental  
Education Association

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On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

**In Support of H-8312 - BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT RECYCLING ACT**

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports H-8312, and respectfully urges its passage.

Single-use packaging contributes to climate change and water pollution, strains the capacity of our central landfill, and creates unsightly and harmful litter. The Beverage Container Deposit Recycling Act creates the necessary revenue for education and outreach efforts in the state so that our population can fully understand and participate in container collection and redemption.

Education is often overlooked as one of the best ways to address the climate crisis and other environmental issues. In fact, strengthening climate education and engagement was identified by scientists as one of six key societal transformations needed to address the climate crisis in a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences<sup>1</sup>.

The RIEEA membership includes over 350 individuals including youth and students as well as more than 60 organizations<sup>2</sup> including Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Save The Bay, the Rhode Island Conservation Districts, and Rhode Island College. RIEEA's membership and supporters care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, our health and economic stability. I encourage you to pass this important legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/5/2354>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>