



Member Focused; Results Driven

June 5, 2024

Representative David A. Bennett
Chairperson; House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 8312 BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT RECYCLING ACT

Dear Chairperson Bennett:

My name is Scott Bromberg and I am the President of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

On behalf of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to register our association's concerns with House Bill 8312, which deals with beverage container deposit and recycling. I was fortunate to be a part of the plastic waste commission the past several months, and as a group we covered a lot of ground to study possible options to combat plastic waste here in Rhode Island. At the conclusion of the commission, we believed there was still work to be done. RIFDA expressed our membership's concerns with a bottle bill during the commission including but not limited to sanitary issues, staffing and operations issues, handling fees and the cost to the state of a bottle bill program. This bill as currently constituted does not address any of the concerns of our membership. It is for this reason; we cannot support House Bill 8312.

Thank you for allowing our industry to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,

Scott Bromberg
President & CEO

RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Hon. Christopher R Blazewski, Majority Leader
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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RIFDA

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