

SOUTH KINGSTOWN RESOLUTION
Supporting the Rhode Island Bottle and Extended Producer Responsibility Bills (H 7911
and S 3012)

WHEREAS, Low recycling rates pose a serious threat to public health and local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, When recycling is contaminated or neglected, waste, especially plastics, end up polluting our waterways, greenspaces, and streets, harming wildlife and reducing residents' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, This issue is particularly urgent given that Rhode Island only currently recycles 26% of recyclable packaging such as bottles, cans, and boxes; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island also experiences high levels of recycling contamination, with over 120,000 tons of recyclable materials thrown away into the Central Landfill each year; and

WHEREAS, Municipal budgets are strained by the cost to collect recycling, and to educate residents about what is and is not recyclable, and

WHEREAS, One such recommendation was to support statewide bottle deposit Legislation as well as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), as proposed in House Bill 7911 and Senate Bill 3012; and

WHEREAS, Implementing a recycling refund program would significantly increase beverage container recovery by creating an incentive-based recycling system that complements, rather than relies on, curbside collection; and

WHEREAS, States with bottle deposit laws consistently report higher recycling rates, reduced litter, more accessible redemption options at retail locations, and higher-quality recyclable materials; and

WHEREAS, An EPR program would be funded by consumer brand companies; and

WHEREAS, The Recycling Reforms set out in these bills would stand to save the state and its municipalities over \$15 million, by requiring that consumer brand companies fund collection and education costs for recycling; and

WHEREAS, The South Kingstown Town Council recognizes the commitment of the Rhode Island General Assembly to addressing recycling contamination and plastics pollution in both dedicated legislation and more expansive efforts to address plastics, including extended producer responsibility, in legislation such as House Bill 7911 and Senate Bill 3012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, In an effort to replicate these results in South Kingstown, the South Kingstown Town Council expresses its support for House Bill 7911 and its Senate companion Bill 3012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to lead sponsors Representatives Spears and McEntee and Senator Mark McKenney, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Valerie Lawson, and the members of the South Kingstown Delegation.

Adopted this 23rd day of March 2026.

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN



Emily R. Houle
South Kingstown Town Clerk on behalf of
the Town Council

