

Will Nakshian

HB 5328

FOR

March 2, 2021

I urge the committee to approve HB 5328 School Waste Recycling and Refuse Disposal.

I am concerned as a resident and homeowner that Rhode Island's landfill will reach capacity in less than twenty years and believe our residents must change their lifestyles now to reduce waste sent to the landfill.

At some point soon all Rhode Islanders will need to adhere to stricter recycling codes because of the limits of our state's landfill as well as the global environment. Implementing the processes in this bill at our educational institutions will serve as a starting point in stricter statewide universal recycling, re-use and composting by teaching our youngest residents about the importance of not wasting food, as well as the responsible disposal of food waste and recycling solid waste. Students will grow up to practice responsible waste disposal and bring those practices into their own homes by educating their family members.

Edible, unused food that is directed to food insecure people or to other institutions in need will contribute to less waste sent to the landfill along with assisting the underserved members of our state resulting in cost savings to all Rhode Islanders.

Another consideration is that global warming and climate change are affected by the greenhouse gases emitted from fossil fuels used to produce, package and transport food people don't eat and by the greenhouse gas emissions (methane) created by disposed rotting food.

As someone who is concerned about all aspects of environmentalism I believe reducing waste and repurposing waste for other uses is one of the easiest ways to preserve our resources and save money. In the long term, passage of this bill will result in cost savings for Rhode Islanders as well as creating a cleaner and healthier environment. Please approve this bill for a better future for our children and our state.

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