

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Greg Gerritt <gerritt@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 10:30 AM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Cc:** Greg Gerritt  
**Subject:** Testimony on H 5422

Members of the Education committee, I strongly support H 5422 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL WASTE RECYCLING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

With the Central landfill filling up rapidly, food scrap being a large part of what is currently tossed into the landfill, and a very large proportion of the climate destroying methane that is produced when food decays in anaerobic conditions it is imperative that RI work harder and smarter to reduce the amount of food scrap going into the landfill. For 15 years I and my colleagues have worked to reduce the amount of wasted food in Rhode Island and the legislature has repeatedly taken steps to move forward. This is the next step. Schools are where children learn about the destructive forces we face, and with successful programs being implemented in more than 20 schools already, with more schools creating these programs yearly, we have a fully tested program that allows schools to save money by reducing food throw away, reduces the stress on the landfill, feeds hungry children good nutritious food, and sets us up for future success in eliminating food scrap in the landfill., by enabling children to bring modern thinking home to their own households. It is time to move forward with growing the compost industry and reducing food waste. I urge you to support H 5422.

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