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RI School Recycling Project Facilitator Scituate and Gloucester Areas

Launched 5 schools in last 18 months. 3 Scituate elementary schools and recently 2 Gloucester elementary schools now working with middle schools in both towns. Most recently cut the amount of trash going to the landfill in two weeks by 95% in West Gloucester Elementary School.

What are the Benefits of our program and strengthening the HB7342 Bill?

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF SORTING STATIONS: Scituate and Gloucester alone have reduced the amount of trash to the landfill by over 10 tons saving landfill space. The landfill will be full in about 2046, possibly costing RI millions to move trash elsewhere. In addition we have saved fees for the towns by reducing hauling costs and will show a large savings for towns over time.

CUTTING FOOD WASTE: Over a third of RI families are food insecure. By implementing sorting stations in the Get Food Smart program food is no longer wasted in the schools but gets eaten by food insecure families and hungry students. This is more critical now than ever with many cuts in various programs recently.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS: Students, faculty and custodians are educated on the best practices for recycling, techniques to handle and save food properly which in turn cuts waste in schools and at home. Students are involved in weighing and determining how the various components impact food waste and the corresponding impacts on landfill management. Middle school teachers are exploring how to possibly enact the program into curriculums.

Importance of Strengthening HB7342

RISRP is utilizing limited resources and volunteers to educate and set up programs backing the initial law for which there is currently no way of tracking and enforcement at the state level.

New additions to the bill will ensure standard reporting, strengthen local RI businesses, standardize the procedures food service companies follow to donate food and regulate share tables. In addition the promulgation of the law to all school districts will finally happen.