

Lisa Cataldi

From: Kelly DeAngelis <kdeangelis@schoolrecyclingproject.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:53 PM
To: House Education Committee
Cc: Warren Heyman; Rep. Santucci, Paul M.; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 7342

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Hello,

I am writing in support of HB 7342 being presented today to the House Education committee. My name is Kelly DeAngelis, I grew up in North Providence, have been a Smithfield resident for 10 years, and have a child in a Smithfield public elementary school. We have a duty to ensure our schools are taking steps to reduce food waste and properly dispose of all materials. Our current system is facing challenges but we can teach students to be stewards of our environment and our community.

The changes in this bill strengthen the 2023 Food Waste Ban to prioritize recovery of edible food through share tables, promote monitoring through a simple reporting mechanism, and encourage compliance with the current law by composting.

I also work as a Facilitator with the nonprofit Rhode Island School Recycling Project working with students to divert edible, healthy food from the lunchroom waste stream, properly sort their waste, recycle, and compost food scraps. Our program was created to help schools comply with the Food Waste Ban law. We are now in 73 schools in the state and have trained over 2,000 students to lead this project in their schools! The goal is to implement the program in all RI schools and become a national leader in waste sorting and composting in schools. We have diverted over 540 tons of waste from the landfill which, as you know, will be full in 2043. Lengthening it's life will save tax payer dollars.

We need to take every step we can toward a sustainable future for RI. We will make a huge impact and empower the next generation by passing this law to improve waste sorting in our schools. Please pass this bill and keep our schools and our state moving in the right direction.

Thank you,

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