



February 26, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H. 5074 - Requesting State House Waste Audit and Reduction Strategy

Dear Chairman Bennett,

The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation applauds the sponsors of the above referenced resolution for working to further waste reduction and recycling within our esteemed Capitol. As Executive Director of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation I do, however, have several suggestions that I would like to share with the thought that doing so may improve the success and accuracy of the proposed work should it move forward. These are as follows.

First, Resource Recovery is of the opinion that the resolution should identify a specific office within the General Assembly to serve as the State House Waste Audit Project Coordinator. This office should have sufficient authority to provide information on current waste management practices and be able to secure and provide access to all the waste generated throughout the building to the contractor that Resource Recovery would need to hire to conduct the proposed work on the House's behalf. Securing, collecting and then sorting through and characterizing the waste streams of the entire facility (including not only those of the House but also those of the Senate, and Executive offices that occupy the building) would likely be unsuccessful without such a designated State House lead.

In addition, in order to present an accurate picture of current waste generation rates, the audit should occur while the facility is most active. This of course would be while the General Assembly is in session. The concern here being that the January 5, 2026, deadline put forward in the resolution would not provide enough time to procure the needed support services and to conduct the audit prior to the end of the current session.

Thank you for considering these points in your continued deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lou Vergato", is written over a horizontal line.

Lou Vergato
Executive Director

Cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee