Testimony <u>in support of</u> H5293: Health and Safety—Textile recycling

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: February 27, 2025

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I support H5293, because it will provide clarification and education for RI residents about how they are supposed to recycle textiles.

Textiles are a valuable resource, and nevertheless almost twenty-nine thousand tons of textiles from residential, industrial and commercial institutions were delivered to the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation landfill, which will reach its capacity by 2046. This is a clear indication that the knowledge about textile recycling needs a refresher.

H5293 not only asks for a textile recycling education program, but also for reporting of the quantity of collected textiles, as measure of success.

As a result of the ongoing devastating unconstitutional and unlawful eradication of federal funding by the current federal executive, RI will struggle to pay for many of programs that would otherwise be financially viable, and we will be forced to focus more on those that provide leverage for a relatively small investment. Implementing H5293 is such an opportunity!

I would like to make the following recommendation:

> The public education should go beyond the narrow aspect of recycling and also cover the significant contribution of the fast-fashion textile industry to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, and encourage consumers to think about these impacts when purchasing clothes, and to maybe just skip one fashion cycle and wear previously-bought clothes longer.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2025–postponement to another year will shorten the "runway" our landfill has left before it reaches its capacity.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Hull for introducing the bill.

Dr. Hans Scholl   February 26 2025

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