

HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of House 7622 Authorizes the department of environmental management to issue and enforce rules and regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of the food waste ban.

Dear Chairperson Bennett and members of the [Committee Name]:

My name is Barbara K. Watts, I am the State Coordinator for RI Citizens Climate Lobby. I support H7622 because food waste contributes to climate change. Food waste in landfills produces methane gas [a powerful greenhouse gas twenty-five times stronger than carbon dioxide](#). According to the [USDA](#) there are “significant methane emissions from food waste rotting in landfills...”

In addition, food waste that is instead diverted to making compost is a resource to keep our farms productive – it is the best and cleanest fertilizer. No worries about PFAS in this fertilizer! I have a daughter who is studying soil science at the University of Copenhagen program on sustainable agriculture – if she were here she would be testifying.

This bill authorizes DEM to write rules and regulations for the existing Food Waste Ban legislation. This is a simple common sense measure that will help ensure this bill meets the legislators intentions.

I urge you to support h7622 and help our soil, our climate, and our future.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts

2 Locust Drive

Kingston, RI 02881

Every year we are sending over 100,000 tons of food to the landfill. That represents about 1/3 of our waste stream. Additionally, Rhode Island's only landfill will be full in 2046. Once the landfill is full, we'll be forced to ship our waste out of state, which will cost exorbitant amounts of money. Reducing the amount of material we send to the landfill is a critical step in prolonging the life of the landfill, and food waste is a great place to start. Food in the landfill is not only wasted space, but a wasted resource. Compost does wonders for our soil, food system, and community, and we should invest in infrastructure and the organizations dedicated to capturing and using it as a resource.

This bill will simply authorize and empower DEM to write any necessary rules and regulations for the existing Food Waste Ban legislation. This is a simple common sense measure that will help ensure this bill meets the legislators intentions.

I urge you to support h7622 and help our soil, our climate, and our future.