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From: Erinn Roberts <rinnroberts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 12:13 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: For: H7622

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Dear Chairman Bennett, First Vice Chairman Phillips, Second Vice Chairwoman Carson and members of the House Environment Committee,

My name is Erinn Roberts and I support H7622. Reducing the impact of food waste on the finite capacity of Rhode Island's landfill makes economic, environmental and community sense. As a farmer for twenty years, I have personally experienced the many benefits that composting and compost provide. In addition to prolonging the lifespan of our landfill and thereby positively impacting the state's future budget, compost itself is a valuable resource that builds soil health and climate resiliency when applied to farms, gardens and other open spaces. As a proponent of school and institutional composting programs, I was heartened when the state passed the Food Waste Ban. It has been a disappointment to see a lack of support in implementation of this important legislation in my community and across the state. Providing funding to empower DEM to enact the Food Waste Ban that is already in place will simply help make that legislation actualized.

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.

Sincerely,

Erinn Roberts