

**Testimony of Warren Heyman,**

**Organizing Director of the Rhode Island School Recycling Project**

**Feb 26, 2026**

**In support of HB #7622**

**My name is Warren Heyman and I live on Arnold Ave in Cranston. I am the organizing director of the Rhode Island School Recycling Project. I am speaking in favor of HB#7622**

**The current school food waste law has no teeth. It makes no sense to pass a law without funding and without an enforcement mechanism.**

**Our project is in 16 school districts. We got there because some superintendents, some school committee members and some principals understand the looming crisis that will happen in 2046 when the landfill is full and we have to ship our trash out of state.**

**There are other districts that we have met with and explained that we will pay 100% of the costs of setting up the project and its costs for the first year. We explain that the reduction in trash going to their dumpsters will cover the minimal costs after the first year. They still are not interested.**

**In 2046 when you have to come up with \$120 to \$150 millions to ship our trash out of state they will care but by then it will be too late.**

**This Bill asks the DEM to set-up rules and then ensure the law is followed. This is a common sense approach. There is another bill pending that also asks RIDE to play a role in putting some teeth into**

**the law you passed requiring schools to divert the food waste and redirect the healthy food to food insecure students.**

**Everyone will have an excuse on why they can't and maybe someone else should enforce it.**

**You are our leaders and we need you to put some teeth into this law....we don't need fangs but we do need some teeth.**

**In the schools with the vision to do it anyway we have diverted over 600 tons of food waste from the landfill and redirected over 60 tons of healthy edible food to hungry students. Supporting this Bill sends the message that this is important work.**