

May 13, 2025

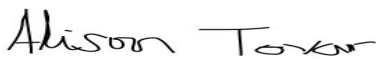
My name is Alison Tovar and I support [SB104](#) | [HB5195](#). I support **SB104** | **HB5195** because, as a faculty member in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the Brown University School of Public Health, my work focuses on improving health outcomes and understanding dietary behaviors. One of the key aspects of my research is recognizing the critical intersection between the environment, food systems, and human health. Every year, we send over 100,000 tons of food to the landfill, which constitutes about one-third of our waste stream. That's not just a missed opportunity to reduce waste; it's a direct loss to our food systems and health. Food waste in landfills contributes to methane emissions, which accelerates climate change, while also wasting resources that could otherwise be composted to improve soil quality and support healthier, more sustainable food systems.

Composting plays an essential role in reducing food waste and, by extension, decreasing landfill use, making it a crucial practice for supporting our health and the environment. By promoting composting, we're improving our soil, enhancing local agriculture, and helping to ensure that future generations have access to healthy, sustainable food systems. This aligns perfectly with my research goals—improving dietary behaviors and the health of communities. A sustainable environment is the foundation of better health outcomes for all.

I'm also motivated to support this bill on a personal level. As a mother of two, I am deeply concerned about the world my children will inherit. With Rhode Island's only landfill expected to be full by 2043, we'll face the burden of shipping waste out of state, incurring significant costs. Reducing the amount of waste, particularly food waste, is a crucial step in prolonging the life of the landfill, saving money, and reducing our environmental impact. I want to ensure that when my children are grown, they don't have to worry about overflowing landfills and the health consequences of environmental degradation.

Supporting this bill is an investment in our soil, our climate, and, most importantly, the future health of our planet and the next generation. I urge you to support **H7856** to help us move toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Tovar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Tovar  
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02903