



David Dadekian
Eat Drink RI LLC
1061 Fish Hill Road
Coventry, RI 02816

Testimony in support of HB 5195

May 13, 2025

Honorable Chairperson Abney and the members of the House Finance Committee:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media and marketing companies in the region for all things culinary. As an advocate for our food system, a small business owner who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive, and as a citizen concerned about our changing climate and food insecurity, **I strongly support HB 5195.**

Every year we're sending over 100,000 tons of food to the RI landfill. That represents about a third of our waste stream. Additionally, Rhode Island's only landfill will be full by 2043, if not sooner. 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. We should invest in infrastructure and the organizations dedicated to capturing and using it as a resource. This bill would provide a steady source of funding for composting and waste diversion programs while also incentivizing people and municipalities to reduce their waste. It's a positive feedback loop that will quickly pay for itself which is a win/win on all fronts.

Thank you to Representative Cortvriend and her co-sponsors on HB 5195. Respectfully, I urge you to pass HB 5195 forward to the full House for passage this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David S. Dadekian'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized.

David Dadekian