

## STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – COMPOSTING AND ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION

House Finance Committee members,

**I am writing in support of HB5195 Compost Fund and HB5534 Urban and Small Farm Success Act** because Rhode Island needs legislative action that reflects the urgent climate threat and the real needs of our Ocean State. The growing food recovery initiatives, such as Rhode Island Food Policy Council, Hope's Harvest, Harvest Cycle, URI Food Recovery Program, and RI Recycling School Project are evidence of this need and demand for food recovery as an industry. A dedicated fund will allow such programs to scale and expand market opportunities.

We cannot afford to delay action for the landfill. This bill will extend the life, create jobs, and eliminate harmful greenhouse gases that impacts our community, our climate, and our beloved ecosystem.

Acting on compost and food recovery as a solution is important to me because *I am witness to enormous amounts of food waste in the food and tourism industry, meanwhile food deserts and nutrition injustices are occurring in the same communities. I am extremely concerned for our food systems and producers who will bear the greatest climate risk if we continue to let food waste decompose in our landfill, rather than returning to our soils.* We have the opportunity now to make a difference to protect the livelihood of our neighbors and ecosystems. I urge you to pass this bill out of committee and support it in the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Maggie Sheerin

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