

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB5195 and SB104, which would establish a Compost Fund through a surcharge on all landfill-bound waste. This initiative would not incur any cost to the state, while providing significant environmental and economic benefits.

This bill is essential for reducing the amount of organic material sent to our landfills and for supporting local composting businesses. Nearly one-third of the waste dumped at the Central Landfill could be composted, and yet, we continue to send it to the landfill. This not only takes up valuable space but also contributes to methane emissions and accelerates the landfill's closure.

Diverting organic waste will result in several benefits:

- **Reduced landfill tipping fees**, which will help offset the surcharge;
- **Lower municipal waste costs**, as cities and towns will pay less for waste disposal;
- **Prolonged lifespan of the Central Landfill**; and
- **Improved soil health**, due to the enrichment that composting provides.

As the President of the Richmond Town Council, I know this legislation will help reduce municipal waste costs in our community. Diverting organic materials from the waste stream will allow the town and its residents to save money while promoting a healthier future with less waste. With 50% of the funds allocated to municipalities, Richmond could use this funding to create a local composting program and further enhance our waste diversion efforts.

The remaining 50% of the funds would support composting projects across the state, creating economic opportunities and more jobs.

I strongly encourage you to support HB5195 and SB104, which will help reduce waste, protect our environment, and create jobs in our state. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your service to Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Samantha Wilcox, individually
President, Richmond Town Council
Richmond, RI