

To the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives,

My name is Jonathan DelPonte, and I represent Holmes Disposal & Recycling, LLC, a Rhode Island-based waste hauling company proudly serving communities across our state.

I'm writing in strong support of legislation that would permit overnight trash collection in Rhode Island. This measure would bring meaningful relief to an essential industry that is currently burdened by mounting logistical, financial, and regulatory challenges.

The ever-increasing traffic congestion driven by widespread construction, bridge closures, and lane restrictions makes daytime hauling increasingly inefficient and unsafe. Our operators are often forced into extended shifts, navigating oversized vehicles through dangerous, crowded roadways. Allowing overnight collection would not only alleviate these safety concerns, but also restore a more sustainable work schedule for drivers, improve route efficiency, and keep Rhode Island cleaner by ensuring timely waste removal.

Operationally, this bill would also help combat the rising costs of labor and fuel — two of the most significant expenses facing waste haulers today. Stop-and-go traffic and extended route times burn fuel unnecessarily and drive up hourly labor costs, putting smaller local companies like ours at a disadvantage.

In addition, I want to express concern about a separate issue currently under discussion: proposals to ban the grinding of construction & demolition (C&D) material for volume reduction in open-top containers. We oppose this restriction. Grinding not only reduces transport emissions and hauling frequency, but also plays a key role in separating recyclables and diverting material from landfills. Eliminating this process would be a step backward for recycling efforts and a costly burden on both haulers and the environment.

We fully acknowledge the role of noise ordinances, but believe a narrow exception for overnight waste collection with reasonable timeframes and noise mitigation practices is a fair compromise. The minor inconvenience to a few is far outweighed by the public benefit of cleaner streets, safer roads, and a more efficient, sustainable waste management system.

We ask for your support on both fronts: to pass legislation allowing overnight trash pickup, and to oppose regulations that hinder responsible recycling practices. These are common-sense steps that would help preserve the health of our communities and the viability of local waste haulers across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.