



Epic Renewal
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Dear Members of the House Government Committee,

My name is Brendan Baba, and I am cofounder of Epic Renewal based in Providence. As one of the few small businesses in Rhode Island working to build composting infrastructure I cannot stress enough how important the new pool of funds created by this bill will be to developing these much needed systems in our state.

We are privileged to have nine expert composters within our community, each bringing different skills, knowledge, and capabilities to this challenge. Our industry operates on very tight margins which makes it challenging to procure traditional funding sources and further increase our capabilities. We know that our communities want these services. We know our municipalities are eager and excited to design and implement them.

Bolstering our composting capacity now and through the funds that this bill allocates is the easiest, most equitable, and most accessible path forward for all of our composting processes to grow and meet these increasing demands. This bill not only empowers municipalities to take the first step, but enables composters to seek funds to strategically complement their efforts.

As you are aware, our landfill is nearing capacity. The closer we get to full capacity and beyond, the higher our general disposal fees will go. The more recoverable material we are able to divert, the longer we will have before we inevitably need to ship our waste out of state or develop alternative disposal methods, causing even more environmental damage and taking dollars out of our local economy.

Rhode Island has the ability to be the first state to achieve 100% landfill diversion of organics, and stand as a model for the rest of our country. With this bill we can empower the growth of small business, create inclusive green jobs, and improve our local environment while supporting our food systems.

I urge you to support this bill so our emerging industry can grow and continue creating the change our state, our country and our planet need to see. You have the power to choose wealth over waste.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Brendan Baba