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From: Ella Kotner <ellaekotner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 4:21 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Testimony FOR H7675

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My name is Ella Kilpatrick Kotner and I am writing **in support of H7675**. I run a non-profit composting program in Providence. We collect food scraps from nearly 1,000 households, and turn them into high quality compost that we then redistribute to the people whose food scraps we collected and other urban growers in the community. We turn what many consider waste into wealth, that is then used to grow food and rejuvenate our depleted urban soils. I believe firmly in community based composting, and I know it can have huge impacts both on diversion metrics and community resilience and vitality when it has robust investment. I also believe that we all need to be responsible for the waste that we generate. The surcharge implemented through H7675 would put some accountability on waste generators while also contributing robust support to composters. It is a win win.

Every year we are sending over 100,000 tons of food to the landfill. That represents about $\frac{1}{3}$ of our waste stream. Additionally, Rhode Island's only landfill will be full in 2046. 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. Much of this food is perfectly edible and could be donated. Some of it could never have been wasted at all. Additionally Compost does wonders for our soil, food system, and community. Therefore we should invest in infrastructure and the organizations dedicated to reducing food waste, increasing surplus food donation and using wasted food as a resource.

This bill will provide funding on a pay as you throw basis by applying a \$2 surcharge for waste going to the landfill. This will provide an incentive to waste less in addition to providing vital funding to the program necessary for a sustainable wasted food system.

This bill would be a game changer for community composting programs like mine and I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,
Ella Kilpatrick Kotner
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