



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

April 15, 2026

The Honorable V. Susan Sosnowski, Chair
Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2437 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL

Chair Sosnowski and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we respectfully submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2437, which amends §23-18.9-17 of the General Laws relating to the State's food waste ban and authorizes the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to issue and enforce rules and regulations to implement and carry out these provisions.

The League recognizes the importance of reducing organic waste, strengthening recycling and composting infrastructure, and advancing environmentally responsible solid waste management practices across Rhode Island. Municipalities have long played a key role in waste diversion efforts and continue to support policies that improve environmental outcomes while promoting consistency and clarity in implementation.

This legislation appropriately clarifies and affirms the authority of the Department of Environmental Management to administer and enforce the food waste ban. Providing clear regulatory authority helps ensure consistent statewide implementation, reduces ambiguity for regulated entities, and supports the effective operation of the State's broader waste reduction goals.

The League particularly appreciates that the bill does not impose new direct mandates on municipalities but instead focuses on strengthening the State's ability to implement existing policy in a more consistent and enforceable manner. Clear administrative authority is an important component of effective environmental regulation, particularly in areas such as organics diversion where coordination between public and private sectors is essential.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony and remain committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly and the Department of Environmental Management on policies that strengthen Rhode Island's environmental outcomes while maintaining practical and workable implementation for local government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee