



RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

50 Sims Avenue, Space 209
Providence, Rhode Island 02909
RIEEA.org

Jeanine Silversmith

On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

In Support of S-2438 – School Waste Recycling and Refuse Disposal

Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports S-2438, and respectfully urges its passage. This bill addresses critical environmental and educational objectives by strengthening school waste recycling and refuse disposal practices across Rhode Island’s educational entities. By requiring regular waste audits, comprehensive recycling programs, reporting of waste audit results to the Rhode Island Department of Education, and daily education on litter prevention and recycling awareness, S-2438 promotes sustainable waste management practices that reduce environmental impact and foster environmental literacy among students.

Additionally, the inclusion of share tables and policies to support food donation not only minimizes food waste but also helps address food insecurity in local communities. Implementing these measures will cultivate responsible stewardship of environmental resources among students and staff, contribute to statewide sustainability goals, and enhance communities’ resilience. RIEEA strongly supports this proactive approach to environmental education and waste reduction and believes that passage of S-2438 will yield long-term benefits for Rhode Island’s students, schools, and environment.

The RIEEA membership includes over 400 individuals including youth and students as well as over 70 organizations¹ including Chariho Regional School District, The Greene School, Nuestro Mundo Charter School, and The Compass School.

¹ <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>