

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2441 Senate Finance Committee, April 28, 2026.**

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in strongest support of S2441, Composting and Organic Waste Diversion, by Sen. Valverde and colleagues.

ECRI enthusiastically joins with our colleagues in the Rhode Island Food policy Council and many other Rhode Islanders to urge our state government to address, with one bill, several very significant issues that affect us all. This should not be delayed any longer. Rhode Island's Central landfill is fast filling up. 1/3 of the material disposed there now could be composted if it were properly diverted. Proper composting programs will save each Rhode Island municipality from significant trucking and tipping expenses, and instead of being wasted decomposing in the landfill it can be converted to a valuable agricultural soil amendments. Compost will improve our farms and gardens. Plant growth will help us tame stormwater flooding. Organic waste diversion will save room in the landfill for waste with no other alternative use. It is vital that our legislators understand that no single fix will solve the confluence of problems affecting our food chain. S2441 will provide funding for public education, focused first on reducing food waste, and then on properly turning it into usable compost.

Funding from relatively small surcharges will make it possible for a variety of programs to provide the necessary variety of solutions, and at no additional charge to the state. It will not take long before cities and towns will reduce the costs of waste disposal. This program offers many wins, but only if our legislators recognize the opportunities and pass this law. Instead of flooding the landfill with waste, you can help create public and private enterprise organic waste solutions with good paying jobs. The Environment Council of Rhode Island strongly supports your passing 2441. It's been studied for a few years. Now it's time to get it started.

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton  
Co-VP for Policy  
The Environment Council of Rhode Island