



April 28, 2026

The Honorable Senator Louis P. DiPalma, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2441- AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COMPOSTING AND ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION

Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and our 39 member municipalities, we respectfully submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2441, legislation that establishes the Compost Fund and Municipal Waste Diversion Grant Fund to advance food waste reduction, composting, and organic waste diversion efforts throughout Rhode Island.

We extend our appreciation to the bill sponsor and the Rhode Island Food Council for their continued collaboration and for incorporating feedback from the League and our municipalities into the most recent version of the legislation. Of particular importance to our members is the inclusion of the opt-in framework, which allows municipalities to voluntarily participate in the program. While earlier drafts included a mandatory \$2 per ton surcharge on waste disposed of in landfills, the revised approach provides local governments with the discretion to choose participation. Municipalities that opt in would be subject to the surcharge but would also gain access to corresponding grant funding, allowing each community to weigh participation against its own fiscal circumstances and operational priorities.

This revised structure makes the program significantly more workable for cities and towns, ensuring that implementation decisions can be aligned with local capacity and budgetary considerations. Additionally, the potential availability of private funding support offers a promising opportunity to supplement public resources and help offset initial implementation costs, further strengthening the viability of municipal participation.

The League appreciates the General Assembly's ongoing commitment to addressing organic waste diversion and environmental sustainability. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Department of Environmental Management, the Office of the General Treasurer, and our member municipalities as this program moves toward implementation to ensure it is effective, equitable, and sustainable for communities across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership with Rhode Island's municipalities.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee