

Jamie Plume

From: Isaac Reid <reidij116@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 10:03 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: For S2441

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My name is Isaac Reid and I am writing in support of S2441, The Compost Fund.

A third of waste sent to the landfill is compostable while our landfill is due to be full in the next 20 years. Rhode Island needs to take a proactive step towards prolonging the life of our landfill, and work towards preserving our natural resources. Food and yard waste in the landfill generates methane gas, 80x more potent than co2. Municipalities need an incentive to invest in organic waste diversion, and this bill provides a mechanism to enable that.

Isaac Reid
210 Pleasant St
Providence, RI 02906

Jamie Plume

From: Jack Lenz <development@weccri.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 1:17 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support for Bill S2441

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Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jack Lenz I am a Providence resident. I am writing to you today in support of Bill S2441. Diverting food waste from the landfill is of vital importance for all of us. The Compost Fund will help raise funds and provide grant opportunities that can be used to reduce food waste, rescue surplus food, and create compost.

Your support of this bill will result in a net positive across the board for the RI Food System.

Jack Lenz
Development Associate
West End Community Center
109 Bucklin Street
Providence RI 02907
Office: 401-781-4242

Jamie Plume

From: Ella Kotner <ellaekotner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony FOR S2441

My name is Ella Kilpatrick Kotner and I am writing **in support of S2441**. 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 S2441 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 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
8 Armenia St.
Providence, RI 02909