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March 15, 2011

Hon. Richard Roy
Legislative Office Building, Room 3201
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Hon. Edward Meyer
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,

The US Composting Council wholeheartedly supports Raised Bill 1116, An Act Concerning The Recycling Of Organic Materials By Certain Food Wholesalers, Manufacturers, Supermarkets And Conference Centers.

As shown in the 2009 CT State-Wide Solid Waste Characterization Study, food residuals comprise the largest percent of recyclable materials going to disposal in Connecticut incinerators. Burning these materials results in air pollutants, including those that contribute to global warming; provides very little net energy due to their high moisture content; and contributes to the generation of incinerator ash residue requiring disposal in lined landfills.

The commercial composting industry, now more than 20 years old, is maturing, with increased ability to handle highly putrescible materials in safe and non-offensive recycling facilities. At its heart, composting is a treatment process that manufactures soil amendments from organic wastes. At the same time, composting creates four times as many jobs, and green jobs at that, as disposing the same material.

Those manufactured soil amendments have a myriad of uses, from home horticulture to sustainable agriculture to stormwater control. They will improve the health of Connecticut's soils, reduce soil erosion and water pollution, and provide taxable income to the businesses that use compost and the producers who manufacture it.

Compost producers are looking to invest in states with policies that will help assure their success. Legislation such as SB1116, that will essentially guarantee a significant compostable feedstock, is just the sort of policy that will attract that investment to Connecticut.

The US Composting Council is a professional and trade organization dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry based upon science, principles of sustainability, and economic viability. The USCC is involved in research, professional and public education, composting and compost standards,

expansion of compost markets and the enlistment of public support. We provide a unified voice for the growing composting industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We encourage you to pass this visionary bill.

Sincerely,

Frank Franciosi
President
U.S. Composting Council