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April 16, 2013

Honorable Kraig Paulsen,  
1305 Cress Parkway  
Hiawatha, IA 52233  
[info@kraigpaulsen.com](mailto:info@kraigpaulsen.com)

Dear House Speaker Paulsen,

The U.S. Composting Council is strongly in favor of SF-306 and the emphasis it puts on recovering, reusing, and recycling organics, particularly food scraps.

This bill will not only reduce production of harmful methane gas at landfills in Iowa, it will also increase awareness of organics recycling in Iowa.

In the 2011 Iowa Waste Characterization Study, 40.2% of the waste collected could have been put towards beneficial reuse through composting. Of the materials collected, food waste was listed as the most prevalent material. In fact, four of the top ten most prevalent materials are organic.

Organics also had the most dramatic rise in amount of materials being contributed to the waste stream, rising over 5% from 2005 to 2011 in the same study. Food waste alone had a nearly 3% increase from 2005 to 2011.

With SF-306, the amount of organics landfilled could be reduced by many thousands of tons. Furthermore, many of the resources required for businesses, state agencies, and local governments to begin organics diversion are already in place in Iowa.

We urge the Iowa State Legislature to adopt SF-306. The multiple benefits of reducing methane, increasing the supply of food for people, and creating valuable soil amendments through composted will significantly benefit the state of Iowa.

Regards

Michael Virga  
USCC Executive Director