



April 1, 2023

The Hon Senator Debbie Stabenow
The Hon Senator John Boozman
Chair and Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Support for HR 651 and S179, the COMPOST Act

Dear Senator Stabenow and Senator Boozman:

The undersigned members of the U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition (USCIC) urge you to consider H.R.651/S.179, the Cultivating Organic Matter through the Promotion of Sustainable Techniques (COMPOST) Act, a bill focused on the development of critical composting infrastructure nationwide. This bill language may become part of the 2023 Farm Bill , and we urgently ask for your cosponsorship of the bills to ensure their support is clear.

USCIC is composed of a substantial cross-section of the U.S. organic waste management community, associations working on sustainable packaging, as well as other stakeholders supporting innovative and responsible municipal waste management solutions. USCIC members work together in advocating for the methodical expansion of all facets of composting infrastructure throughout the U.S. Our goal is to see a significant increase in access to robust collection programs that divert food waste, yard trimmings, and certified compostable packaging to composting facilities.

The COMPOST Act is designed to meet the growing demand from individuals and businesses to compost food scraps and certified compostable packaging, assisting with waste reduction and community-based efforts to transition to a circular economy. Unfortunately, many communities lack access to composting programs that can meet their range of needs.

To help fill this critical infrastructure gap, the COMPOST Act would create new USDA grant and loan guarantee programs for composting infrastructure projects, including both large-scale composting facilities as well as farm, home, or community-based projects. The bill would also promote composting as a conservation practice by farmers.

Increased investment in composting infrastructure can help our country reduce landfill volumes, decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve soil health and water quality, and create jobs and value-added products. Composting is a means of organic residuals management that truly closes the loop in communities, yielding a valuable additive that enriches the soil and sequesters carbon. Composting is also a powerful opportunity to bolster economic prosperity in rural and urban communities. Not only do composting facilities sustain twice as many jobs as landfills and four times more jobs than incinerators on a per-ton basis, but diverting organic materials to composting also helps mitigate rising landfill costs.

Investing in composting infrastructure promotes rural development, sustainability, and job creation. As supporters of community-based solutions for waste reduction, we urge you to cosponsor and support the COMPOST Act.

Sincerely,

US Composting Infrastructure
Coalition Members

US Composting Council
Plant Based Products Council
Natural Resources Defense Council
(NRDC)
One Step Closer
National Waste & Recycling
Association
BPI
Foodservice Packaging Institute
American Sustainable Business
Network (ASBN)

Other Groups

Kiss the Ground
Zero Waste Washington
Solana Center for Environmental
Innovation
Brooklyn Grange
WasteCap Resource Solutions
Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm
Project
Seventh Generation
Dayton Foodbank
NYCCP hosted by Queens Botanical
Garden
Nebraska Recycling Council