

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Tyler Gleason, and I am the Operations Manager of We Compost It! I am here in support of LD 1541.

We Compost It! processes food scraps into nutrient rich soil amendment called compost. There are many types of contaminants that we screen out of the food scraps we receive from schools, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, & many other types of food producing establishments. These contaminants range from plastic bags to plastic cutlery, aluminum foil, glass, and many types of food related packaging. We see many varieties of “compostable” plastics which seem to be a feel-good option for folks who are struggling to understand how to properly recycle plastic based packaging. Quite frankly, we do not see any benefit to our soil amendment by adding compostable plastics and is a source of confusion for folks who are just trying to do the right thing. There are many types of plastics that are made to look like compostable plastics, even having labels that may lead one to believe they are choosing environmentally friendly options. We call this “green washing”.

Under LD 1541, shifting the cost of recycling away from towns and taxpayers will increase the availability of education surrounding recycling. It is important to note that hiding behind “compostable packaging” will only add to the contamination we process, driving up costs of composting, and falsely increasing recycling rates.

Please consider your support for LD 1541. Let us not hide behind packaging that claims to benefit the environment. We need to step into the ring with other supporting nations and territories by shifting the burden of recycling confusion to those who benefit most from recyclable materials.

Thank you,

Tyler Gleason  
Operations Manager  
We Compost It!