



**Environmental Committee Testimony
By Stan Sorkin, President
Connecticut Food Association
Monday, March 7, 2011**

Testimony in Support of RB1116. An Act Concerning the Recycling of Organic Materials by Certain Food Wholesalers, Manufacturers, Supermarkets, and Conference Centers

Good afternoon, Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer and Members of the Environmental Committee. My name is Stan Sorkin, President of the Connecticut Food Association. I am here today to testify on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Food Association in support of RB1116.

The Connecticut Food Association is the state trade association that conducts programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations on behalf of its 240 member companies—food retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and service providers in the state of Connecticut. CFA's members in Connecticut operate approximately 300 retail food stores and 250 pharmacies. Their combined estimated annual sales volume of \$5.7 billion represents 75% of all retail food store sales in Connecticut. CFA's retail membership is composed of large multi-store chains, regional firms, and single store independent supermarkets. CFA's 90 associate members include the supplier partners of its retail and wholesale members.

Our Association understands the leadership role our members must play in creating public awareness and adopting programs that can generate environmental benefits. The CFA recognizes the environmental and operational benefits that composting facilities would bring to the state and our industry. Since last year, we have been working with the Department of Environmental Protection to craft language regarding the establishment of composting facilities in CT that would take into account concerns that were brought up during our testimony last year. CFA appreciates the DEP's willingness to seek out our input and incorporate it in the bill. Thus, the CFA fully supports RB1116 and our members look forward to working with DEP and the operators of the new composting facilities to increase composting in the state.

We urge you to pass RB6116. An Act Concerning the Recycling of Organic Materials by Certain Food Wholesalers, Manufacturers, Supermarkets, and Conference Centers