

Testimony  
Blue Earth Compost  
Bill S 234  
2/15/2019

Madam Chair, Chairman, Vice chairs, and Members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

My name is Sam King and I come to you today from Blue Earth Compost, a residential and commercial food scrap hauler based out of Hartford. Blue Earth Compost has a mission of expanding composting in Connecticut and to that end, we have diverted millions of pounds away from incineration and towards composting facilities to benefit our soil, air, water, and local economy.

I think it comes as no surprise that I would like to voice my support for Senate Bill 234 - An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Curbside Food Waste Collection Used in Anaerobic Digesters.

My fellow supporters have already outlined the multitude of reasons why this bill should have its day. For this reason, my remarks are not targeted at the areas of concern such as our aging waste infrastructure and air pollution. I will instead focus more on how this bill posits a wonderful solution.

However, I would like to make one point before I get there. It is a well-accepted fact that nature does not create waste. The “waste” of one product is the food for another, such that the cherry stone is the fodder for soil to grow more cherries. I mention this because the bill in

question seeks to return our state to a model that reflects the perfect processes of nature.

Bill 234 will build the foundational infrastructure that diverts this valuable resource that some call “waste” away from being burned unnecessarily and towards its intended use; being returned to the soil to grow more food. That it would be creating renewable energy in the process adds a cherry on the top.

The solution I would like to highlight is economic because, in addition to the environmental merits, Bill S234 presents development opportunities. If it is implemented, it will mean more jobs and capital goods investment in this burgeoning industry. I am admittedly not an expert in development economics, but I can speak with authority from the position of small business in this industry. We are creating good paying jobs with dignity for our community and the opportunities put on the table would allow a business like ours to continue that trend.

Our company exists as a litmus test of the public interest in community scale composting. With a payment-based platform we have been able to enlist hundreds of households in the Hartford area. The rate of growth has also accelerated as of late. This leads me to believe that cities and towns in the state are ready to make the switch to source separation of organics.

In absence of municipal programs the private sector can and will do its best to meet this demand. I fear though that our state will never reach the full benefits of community composting without the creation of programs like this. Please move forward with Bill S234 for our environment and local economy.

