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Chairs Bray, Sheldon and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for your invitation to speak with you today about the Universal Recycling Law. My name is Lisa Ransom. I own Grow Compost of Vermont with my husband, Scott Baughman. Our business was formed to capture and protect the valuable resource of organics to reduce methane and help build the soils of Vermont. We collect and haul food scraps and agricultural organics and make compost and soil.

Last year our trucks hauled over 7 million pounds of food scraps from Vermont businesses, resorts, schools, prisons, office buildings and residents - diverting this material from the landfill to agricultural uses - chicken foraging, compost, bedding and clean energy. We run a double stream of organic collection - one stream that collects food scraps for the creation of compost for Vermont soils and a separate stream that is diverted to de-pack and anaerobic digesters.

Scott and I and our incredible Grow Compost team of truck drivers and soil builders feel as if we are making a difference. As the United Nations warns that the Earth continues to somersault towards irreversible climate change consequences, **Vermont** is making a difference. Currently Vermont, diverts over 80,000 tons of food scraps from the state's single landfill and puts these resources back into beneficial agricultural uses.

A [New York Times Article](#) published just this week reported that reducing emissions of methane will be critical to reaching goals for reducing climate change - (keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius - the goal of the Paris Agreement.) The article discusses that the reason reducing methane has gained prominence in this global conversation is because cutting methane concentrations is the quickest way to slow rising global temperatures. Methane emissions stem primarily from three sectors: fossil fuels, landfill and agriculture.

Vermont is a leader in the country for our progressive and successful diversion of organic material from landfill through our Universal Recycling Law. Our position is that we need diversion on every level: Organic collection for chickens to forage; hauling food scraps to make compost for our Vermont farmers, collecting organic material to be used to create energy through anaerobic digestion.

As the economy reopens, Vermont is posed to be stronger and more resilient. The future of green business in Vermont is bright. Our 'compost' law is encouraging resilience and local food production: Vermonters are building gardens; creating small compost collection start-up businesses; building new anaerobic digesters such as the digester that is now located on the

Goodrich Farm in Salisbury. It will take all of this effort to reach our goals for diverting food scraps across this state. I believe the resiliency of Vermont is directly related to the Universal Recycling Law and Vermonter's engagement with these resources in their own homes, in their businesses, at the grocers where they buy their food, the office spaces and schools where they spend their days, the parks in which they recreate. All of these businesses before you: Both large and small compost operators, haulers, anaerobic digesters all play a critical part in meeting the needs of regional businesses, food manufacturers, breweries, convenience stores, prisons, schools, universities, hospitals and individuals throughout the state.

These efforts are crucial to survival on this planet, to the growth of our green economy and to the clean air, soil and water in Vermont. Reducing greenhouse gases and building soil in Vermont requires that we continue using all of our resources and work collaboratively in order to offer Vermonters every opportunity to engage in this important work through something they all do every day - eat.

I appreciate your attention to this issue. Feel free to reach me at 802-793-5568 or at lisa@growcompost.com if I can offer any further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Ransom
Owner, Grow Compost of Vermont LLC