

5/4/2021

Hello friends!

[NC HB 637, the Compost Procurement Act](#) was introduced by Representative John Ager (D-Buncombe County) and thus far, has 21 co-sponsors. This Act builds awareness of the important role of the composting industry in NC by providing guidance for State and Local governments to purchase compost for use in landscaping and infrastructure projects, and to buy back compost from compost contractors. It also provides reimbursement to NC farmers who use compost to raise crops. Not only would this bill help create and support long-term, stable markets for compost produced here in North Carolina (a growing industry, and job creator) it also provides the impetus for local governments to move toward more cost-effective, sustainable, and regenerative practices. Similarly, the shift toward regenerative agriculture practices can take time; to build soils naturally, and move away from typical synthetic chemical inputs. This Act would support farmers during that transition time.

The crossover deadline is Thursday, May 13-- the date by which all bills must have passed either the House or the Senate chamber and into a committee in order to be eligible for consideration, and bi-partisan support is needed. If you are in favor of this bill, let our Representatives know! Find out who your rep is here: <https://www.ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>. A guide for effectively contacting the legislature is included, and feel free to use language in this letter, if that is helpful.

The benefits of using compost cannot be overstated. Using compost has been proven to improve soil health and help prevent soil erosion, and adds organic nutrients and retains water, which improves the biological, chemical and structural health of soil. The soil can then support healthier plants by efficiently transporting nutrients and water to them. Applying compost can reduce the need for repeated use of chemical fertilizers, which saves money and protects water resources. Because compost is made from organic residuals, using compost offers the significant benefit of diverting organic waste from needless and costly disposal. It is estimated that one cubic yard of compost can sequester more than 700 pounds of CO₂ in the soil.

Most sincerely,

NCCC Board of Directors