



**US Composting  
Council**

## **Governor Crist Vetoes Yard Trimmings Ban Repeal!**

(Ronkonkoma, NY) Governor Charlie Crist vetoed HB 569, which would have allowed leaves and other yard "trash" to be buried in Florida landfills. Those materials have been banned since 1988 since they can be easily recycled and converted into valuable soil amendments instead of consuming limited landfill space.

In vetoing the Bill, Governor Crist noted that Florida is striving to be a leader in recycling, and the Bill would be a step backwards for the state. He acknowledged that adding these materials would decrease the lives of their landfills, and that there was little assurance that the goals of the bill, to contribute to energy independence and reduce greenhouse gases, would be realized.

"Ending the ban would be bad for the economy and bad for the environment," wrote Dr. Stuart Buckner, Executive Director and Wayne King, President of the US Composting Council, in a letter urging the Governors' veto. The Council assembled The Coalition to Keep Organics Out of Landfills, comprised of 17 state and national organizations, including such diverse members as the Teamsters, Green Florida and the Institute for Local Self Reliance, to give weight to the veto request. A copy of Coalition letter, including the list of the 17 member organizations, can be found [here](#).

Twenty three states have bans on dumping leaves or other yard trimmings in landfills. Several of these bans have been challenged in recent years, yet none of them have been repealed. Thanks to Governor Crist's veto, Florida will not be the first.

*Editor's Note: **The US Composting Council (USCC)** is a national non-profit organization that advances composting and promotes compost use to enhance soils and provide economic and environmental benefits to our members and society. The USCC also directs the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF), a charitable foundation, which administers public and private research and education initiatives. For more information about the composting industry and membership in the USCC, visit [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)*

Contact:

Stuart Buckner, Executive Director  
US Composting Council  
631-731-4931



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

June 1, 2010

Interim Secretary Dawn Roberts  
Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Interim Secretary Roberts:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Committee Substitute for House Bill 569, enacted during the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2010 and entitled:

An act relating to solid waste disposal ...

HB 569 allows the disposal of yard trash in Class I landfills, a practice currently prohibited by Florida's Solid Waste Management Act. Although the bill requires landfills to capture and make beneficial use of methane gas to qualify to accept yard trash, it directs materials to landfills that would otherwise will be recycled. I am concerned about the lack of Florida-specific data to support a conclusion that the proposed practice would result in a net reduction of greenhouse gases or a savings to consumers.

Florida is a leader in recycling. I am concerned that this bill will be a step backward in our efforts. Additionally, maintaining a ban on yard trash disposal in a Class I landfill means it will extend the life of these costly and difficult to site facilities. I have not been presented with compelling reasons to abandon this long-standing state policy that provides an opportunity to reach our recycling goals. For the reasons stated above, I am hereby withholding my approval of Committee Substitute for House Bill 569, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2010 JUN - 1 PM 0:52

06/01/10



Letters to urge Governor Crist’s veto of the landfill ban repeal were received from 67 companies and organizations representing 20 states and the District of Columbia. An additional 400+ letters were received through the action of Florida Green and the Mulch not Methane campaign.

Governor Crist Vetoed the bill on June 1, 2010

Organization	Based In	Signer
AI Organics	Missouri	Bob Yost, Vice President
Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co.	New York	Laura Fieselman, Sustainability Coordinator
Association of Compost Producers	California	Dan Noble, Executive Director
Barnes Nurser Inc.	Ohio	Sharon Barnes
BASF Corporation	New Jersey	Micheal Heltzer Government Affairs Manager
Board of County Commisioners	Florida	Jim Reece
C&W	Florida	Kris Creeden, Presidant
California Organic Recycling Council	California	Michele Young CORC chair
California Resource Recycling Association	California	Julie Muir, President
Capital Solutiuons, LLC	Florida	Patrick Bell
CLK Systems, Inc.	Illinois	
Compost USA	Florida	Glen Stewart, Chief Operating Officer
Container Recycling Institute	California	Susan Collins, Executive Dierctor
Cornell Waste Institute	New York	Jean Bonhotal
CPS Organics	Florida	Maria de la Portilla
Cycle Logic	Florida	David M. Hill, Principal
Department of Natural Resources, State of Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Ann Coakley, Director
Earth Circle Conservation & Recycling	Florida	Gretchen Brewer, Principal
Earthsaver Equipment, Inc.	Montana	Powell Clinton
Eco-Cycle	Colorado	Eric Lombardi, Executive Director
Eisenmann	Illinois	Adam Halsband, Business Development Manager
Farmer Automatic of America	Georgia	David Leavell
Florida Potting Soils, Inc.	Florida	Matt Biegler, General Manager
Gary Liss & Associates	California	Gary Liss
Green Florida	Florida	Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director
Harvest	Massachusetts	Tom Kelley
Harvest Quest International, Inc.	Florida	Darren Midlane Tech. Dir.

Hillsborough County	Florida	Kathryn T. Brown, Waste Reduction Specialist
Hirsch Systems LC	Iowa	Myron Hirschman
Institute for Local Self Reliance	Washington DC	Brenda Platt , Co-Director
Kessler Consulting, Inc.	Florida	Staff of Kessler Consulting, Inc.
Missouri Organics	Missouri	Kevin Anderson
Missouri Recycling Association	Missouri	David Beal, President
Morbark, Inc.	Michigan	Kevin Yucker SE Regional Manager
Novozymes	North Carolina	Frank Franciosi
Office of Materials Management, EPA, Region III	Pennsylvania	Mike Giuranna, Solid Waste Specialist
Peterson an Anderson Industries Co.	Oregon	Larry Cumming, President
Pisgah Forest Institute at Brevard College	North Carolina	Kevin Fischer, Operations Manager
Recycle Florida Today	Florida	Susan Chapman, Chair, RFT Board of Directors
Recycling Connections Corp.	Wisconsin	Kathy Powell, Education & Programming Specialist
Sierra Club Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Lynne Pledger
Soil Control Lab	California	Frank Shields
Soil Tek	Missouri	Robert Carrothers, President
South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District	Florida	Margan Levy, Administrator
St. Louis Composting	Missouri	Patrick Gerty, President
Tamalpais NatureWorks	California	William Callahan
Turbo Screws	Florida	Bill Fogerty, Vice President
Turning Earth	New York	Andrew Kessler, Founder & Managing Director
US Composting Council	New York	Stuart Buckner, Exec. Dir. & Wayne King Pres.
WeCare Organic	New York	Jeffrey LeBlanc President
Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd.	California	Micheal Gross, Manager
Zero Waste Task Force of san Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties	California	Antionette Stein
	Florida	Pat Franklin
	Florida	Eliot Epstein
	Minnesota	Kay Yanisch
Additional signers of the USCC letter (the Coalition to Keep Organics Out of Landfills)		
Teamsters Joint Council 75	Florida	Ken W. Wood, President
Last Stand - Protect Key West and the Florida Keys, Inc.	Florida	Mark E. Songer, President

Friends of the Earth	Washington, DC	Erich Pica, President
Product Policy Institute	Georgia	Bill Sheehan, Exec. Dir.
Mulch and Soil Council	Virginia	Bob LaGasse, Exec. Dir.
GrassRoots Recycling Network	California	Linda Christopher, Exec. Dir.
Sierra Club of California	California	Arthur Boone, Chair, Zero Waste Committee
Northern California Recycling Association	California	John Moore, General Counsel
Center for a Competitive Waste Industry	Wisconsin	Peter Anderson, President
City of Madison, WI	Wisconsin	George P. Dreckman, Recycling Coordinator
Eureka Recycling	Minnesota	Tim Brownwell, President



# US Composting Council

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ERTH Products

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Chuck Wilson  
A-1 Organics

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### Andrew Kessler

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### Mike Manna

Organic Recycling Solutions

### Scott Subler, Ph.D.

Environmental Credit Corp

### Jeff Ziegenbein

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

### Eliot Epstein, Ph.D.

Epstein Environmental  
Consultants, LLC

### Stuart Buckner, Ph.D.

Executive Director

May 10, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

The Coalition to Keep Organics Out of Landfills, a coalition of 17 national and state environmental and recycling organizations **urges you to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052**, which repeals Florida's longstanding ban on yard trimmings in landfills. Ending this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are mostly owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that compost manufacturers create at least **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount of methane towards Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal: increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the USEPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the IPCC states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trimmings were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be manufactured, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier soils and plants, and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, Florida's composts could reap many benefits for the state's agricultural crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trimmings in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.



- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA)**, the national association that represents the landfill industry. A joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC states that advances in landfill technology “*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*”

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. In addition, there is precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal that passed the legislature. Governor Vilsack did that in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

The USCC is a trade and professional organization advancing composting and compost use as the most environmentally and fiscally sound method of treating yard trimmings and other organic residuals. We provide a unified voice for the growing composting industry. We hold our internationally-attended Annual Conference and Trade Show in Orlando every three years, which brings revenues from 1,000 attendees to Orlando businesses and supports many of the 264 small businesses that would be affected by your signature on this legislation. It would be hard to justify to our members why we would continue to come to Orlando when the State has taken a position detrimental to our members and to Florida small businesses.

On behalf of the Coalition to Keep Organics Out of Landfills, the US Composting Council requests that you use your power to veto the passage of HB 569 and SB 1052.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stuart Buckner  
Executive Director

Wayne King  
President

COALITION TO KEEP ORGANICS OUT OF LANDFILLS

Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Neil Seldman, President  
Teamsters Joint Council 75. Ken W Wood, President  
Last Stand – Protect Key West & the Florida Keys, Inc. Mark E. Songer, President  
Friends of the Earth. Erich Pica, President  
Green Florida. Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director  
Eco-Cycle. Eric Lombardi, Executive Director  
Product Policy Institute. Bill Sheehan, Executive Director  
Mulch and Soil Council. Bob LaGasse, Executive Director  
GrassRoots Recycling Network (GRRN). Linda Christopher, Executive Director  
Association of Compost Producers. Dan Noble, Executive Director  
Sierra Club of California. Arthur R. Boone, Chair, Zero Waste Committee  
Zero Waste Task Force of San Mateo, Santa Clara & San Benito CA Counties. Antoinette Stein, Founder  
Northern California Recycling Association, John Moore, General Counsel  
Center for a Competitive Waste Industry. Peter Anderson, President  
City of Madison, Wisconsin. George P. Dreckmann, Recycling Coordinator  
Eureka Recycling. Tim Brownwell, President/Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. Composting Council. Wayne King, President

# CAPITOL SOLUTIONS, LLC

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANTS



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

In this year's legislative session, language was passed in HB 569 and SB 1052 repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trash into landfills. Florida established this prohibition in the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act, in part, to save valuable landfill capacity. As a result, both the public and private sectors in Florida have invested millions of dollars in separate collection programs and processing facilities, and have developed diverse markets for products produced from yard trash (mulch, composts, potting soils, etc.). With the signing of this language into law, this policy change will be both economically detrimental to the 264 facilities registered in Florida who receive and process yard trash as it is equally harmful to the environment. I urge you, as the Governor, to use your veto power regarding this odious language.

The economics behind writing HB 569 into law would allow big business to make a slightly larger profit while tumbling the vast amount of small business in this sector. Florida, as a whole, is working through one of the toughest periods in the history of the state regarding unemployment and revenue and this legislation charts the wrong course on the road to recovery. To further validate the point, according to the Institute for Local Self Reliance, composting alone creates four jobs to each one created in a landfill. The wording of HB 569 would lead you to believe that the waste industry is out to capture methane and generate electricity from this capture. This is not the case; the truth to this bill is the mere fact that the waste industry will no longer have to make two separate pickups for segregated yard waste and household garbage. The waste industry will cut costs by picking both up at once. These details are from testimony given by a representative from Waste Management before the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee and Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

It is important to note that yard trash, of which leaves and branches make up 90% of the content, are a poor feedstock for methane production because of the lignin content. Less than 30% of leaf mass and branches decompose in a landfill environment. According to DEP, of the 30% which do decompose and create methane, only 75-90% of the methane is captured. Environmentally, methane is thirty times more harmful to the earth's atmosphere than that of carbon dioxide. On

the other hand, composting of yard waste is considered carbon neutral. The methane produced in yard waste after being composted and added to soils is sequestered.

The list of reasons to veto this language are many, but most importantly, by writing HB 569 into law it will put 264 thriving small businesses in Florida out of business. I believe, as many others do, that this is the antithesis to Florida's goal during this year's legislative session. I ask that you seriously consider these arguments as you make your decision whether or not to put HB 569 into Florida law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Bell".

Patrick Bell  
Capitol Solutions



## Harvest Quest International, Inc.

*Providing a Competitive Edge in Organics Recycling*

**Honorable Charlie Crist**  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: (HB 569 and SB 1052) Please don't turn back the clock to 1988**

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2010

Dear Governor Crist,

I have worked in the Organics Recycling Industry for over twenty years and have a broad experience in composting, microbiology, soil science and anaerobic digestion.

During the recent legislative session, I was dismayed to see language passed in HB 569 and SB 1052 repealing Florida's longstanding ban on landfilling yard trash. If signed into law, this will be a major step backwards for our State and turns the clock back to 1988. The ban on landfilling yard trash was enacted as part of the Solid Waste Management Act and over the years has led to the development of an entire industry handling, processing, and converting yard trash into beneficial end products. Many millions of dollars, of both public and private sector funding, have been invested in separate collection programs and hundreds of processing facilities. In addition, diverse markets for products produced from yard trash (mulch, composts, potting soils, etc.) have been created.

Research has shown that placing organics in landfill cells for the purpose of generating landfill gas is far from the best option. Currently, there are 23 states that ban some fashion of organics disposal in landfills, mostly yard trash. It is unfortunate and ironic that these easiest-to-recycle materials are now the target of some entities who want to overturn landfill bans under the premise that the methane these organics would generate can be used as an energy source. From both energy and resource conservation standpoints this is a wasteful use of resources, decreasing recycling and the life of our landfills and potentially increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Yard trash should continue to be recycled into mulch and compost that can be used to enhance the health of our soils and plants and protect our valuable water resources. Agriculture is, after all, the second largest contributor to our State's economy and our relatively poor soils need all the organics they can get.

Repealing the yard trash ban will have a significant adverse impact on our Green Industry. It will only benefit a few waste haulers and landfills at the expense of many small businesses. Jobs will be lost, many in rural areas, which have taken decades to create. Composting and recycling facilities employ significantly more workers than landfills and we invest heavily in equipment and rely on other businesses for services and product distribution, resulting in a significant multiplier to our economic impact.

Environmental  
Solutions  
Economic Sense



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Clermont, Florida 34711

Tel: (321) 246-7976

Email: [info@harvest-quest.com](mailto:info@harvest-quest.com)



US Composting  
Council  
MEMBER



At Harvest Quest we specialize in the composting of highly putrescible organic waste streams, such as biosolids (wastewater treatment sludge) and foodwaste. Yard trash is a major component of our process and provides necessary carbon and porosity in our windrows (compost piles) facilitating efficient composting. As Florida moves forward with the recently passed law and policies to meet a 75 percent recycling goal by 2020, vast volumes of additional organic wastes, particularly foodwaste, will be diverted from landfills. Take away our carbon source, yard trash, and the handling of these more nutrient rich materials becomes extremely difficult.

Active windrows comprised of yard trash and biosolids



In summary, as the public's awareness of environmental issues continues to grow, we must strive to further implement and maintain truly sustainable practices. It is ludicrous therefore, that the recycling industry now faces a major step backwards. A small number of landfill companies, under the guise of bringing us green energy, stand to gain substantially increased profits from the implementation of this bill. They themselves could well be cutting jobs if they revert to a single collection and are no longer required to segregate yard trash and household garbage. What is certain though is that, writing HB 569 into law will have severe negative consequences for Florida both economically and environmentally.

I respectfully urge you to consider my comments as you make your decision whether or not to sign HB 569 into Florida law.

Sincerely,

Darren Midlane  
Technical Director





# Board of County Commissioners

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State of Florida

May 7, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: HB 569

Dear Governor Crist:

As a County Recycling Coordinator for 22 years and a member of Recycle Florida Today, I wanted to express my opposition to lifting the ban from disposing of yard waste in Class I landfills. Since 1988 Florida, the majority of its counties and large municipalities, and private industries have invested millions in establishing infrastructure and programs to recycle and reuse yard waste throughout the State.

You signed into law in 2008 HB 7135 that mandates an aggressive goal of 75% recycling by the year 2020, and now it appears that Florida is poised to take one giant step backwards after being a leader nationally since the enactment of the Solid Waste Management Act of 1988.

I am not challenging the benefit of landfill (methane) gas to fuel as a renewable energy source, but like EPA, Region IV, many of us ascribe to the principle here of highest beneficial use as being most desired. Accelerating the depletion of valuable landfill capacity throughout Florida and increasing the generation of a more hazardous green house gas such as methane is counterintuitive at best. To restate RFT's point: "it is preferable to minimize methane generation by recycling yard waste through composting, mulching, and more effective biomass energy utilization programs."

I, therefore, respectfully request the veto of HB 569.

Sincerely,

Jim Reece  
Recycling Coordinator



## MORBARK, INC.

8507 S. WINN RD P.O. BOX 1000

WINN, MICHIGAN 48896 (989) 866-2381 FAX (989) 866-2280 [www.morbark.com](http://www.morbark.com)

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

In this year's legislative session, language was passed in HB 569 and SB 1052 repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trash into landfills. Florida established this prohibition in the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act, in part to save valuable landfill capacity. As a result, both the public and private sectors in Florida have invested millions of dollars in separate collection programs and processing facilities and have developed diverse markets for products produced from yard trash (mulch, composts, potting soils, bio-mass renewable energy etc.). With the signing of this language into law this policy change will be both economically detrimental to the 264 facilities registered in Florida who receive and process yard trash as it is equally harmful to the environment. I urge you as the Governor to use your veto power regarding this odious language.

The economics behind writing HB 569 into law would allow big business and special interest to make a slightly larger profit while tumbling the vast amount of small business in this sector. Florida as a whole is working through one of the toughest periods in the history of the state regarding unemployment and revenue and this legislation charts the wrong course on the road to recovery. To further validate the point, according to the Institute for Local Self Reliance, composting alone creates four jobs to each one created in a landfill. The wording of HB 569 would lead you to believe that the "waste industry" is out to capture methane and generate electricity from this capture. This is not the case; the truth to this bill is the mere fact that the waste industry will no longer have to make two separate pickups for segregated yard waste and household garbage. The waste industry will cut costs by picking both up at once. These details are from testimony given by a representative from "Waste Management" before the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee and Environmental Preservation and Conservation.

It is important to note that yard trash, of which leaves and branches make up 90% of the content, are a poor feedstock for methane production because of the lignin content. Less than 30% of leaf mass and branches decompose in a landfill environment. According to DEP, of the 30% which



## MORBARK, INC.

8507 S. WINN RD P.O. BOX 1000  
WINN, MICHIGAN 48896 (989) 866-2381 FAX (989) 866-2280 [www.morbark.com](http://www.morbark.com)

do decompose and create methane only 75-90% of the methane is captured. Environmentally, methane is thirty times more harmful to the earth's atmosphere than that of Carbon Dioxide. On the other hand, composting of yard waste is considered carbon neutral. The methane produced in yard waste after being composted and added to soils is sequestered.

The list of reasons to veto this language are many but most importantly, by writing HB 569 into law it will put 264 thriving small businesses in Florida out of business leaving hundreds of people unemployed. I believe as many others do that this is the anti-thesis to Florida's goal during this year's legislative session. I ask that you seriously consider these arguments as you make your decision whether or not to put HB 569 into Florida law.

Sincerely,

Kevin Yuncker  
Southeast Regional Manager



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

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**ALABAMA** 5998 Highway 78 West • West Oxford, Alabama 36203 • 256.835.9965 • Fax 256.835.9934



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Creeden', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Kris Creeden  
President  
C & W Global, Inc.

[www.candwtrucking.com](http://www.candwtrucking.com)

**CORPORATE** 703 Hennis Road • Winter Garden, Florida 34787 • Toll Free 800.800.4078 • 407.877.2600 • Fax 407.877.7064

**NORTH FLORIDA** 779 West Highway 20 • Hollister, Florida 32147 • 386.328.8188 • Fax 386.328.8785

**ALABAMA** 5998 Highway 78 West • West Oxford, Alabama 36203 • 256.835.9965 • Fax 256.835.9934



Recycle Florida Today, Inc.  
Post Office Box 15889  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5889

May 6, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

**RE: HB 569**

I am writing on behalf of Recycle Florida Today, Inc. (RFT), a state-wide recycling advocacy organization, to express our strong opposition to HB 569. HB 569 will be a significant policy change to allow landfilling of yard trash in Class I landfills provided that there is a landfill gas collection system and the landfill gas is beneficially used.

Current Statutes and Rules prohibit the disposal of yard trash in Class I landfills. The State established this prohibition in the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act, in part to save valuable Class I Landfill capacity. As a result, both the public and private sectors in Florida have invested considerably to establish separate yard waste collections programs, yard waste processing facilities, and end-markets for products produced from yard waste. The proposed policy change would likely have significant adverse impacts on current collection programs, existing infrastructure and end-markets, as well as the accelerated depletion of valuable disposal capacity. It is important to note that there are currently 264 facilities in Florida registered to receive and process yard waste.

Letter to Governor Crist – HB 569

May 6, 2010

Page Two

While RFT believes that landfill methane capture and beneficial reuse is appropriate, we also believe that it is preferable to minimize methane generation by recycling yard trash through composting, mulching and more effective biomass energy utilization programs.

This is especially important now as Florida moves forward with the recently passed law and policies to meet a 75 percent recycling goal by 2020 and in doing so, provide national leadership in solid waste management. We respectfully request that you veto HB 569 due to its impact of increased disposal of yard trash, the undermining of Florida's ability to achieve its proposed recycling goal, and its impact on the many yard waste processing businesses operating in the State.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our request to veto HB 569.

Sincerely,



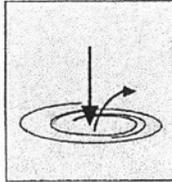
Susan Chapman, Chair, RFT Board of Directors

SNC/cs

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**About RFT:**

Founded in 1991, Recycle Florida Today is a diverse 300+ member 501 (C) (6) statewide professional and advocacy organization comprised of recycling, waste reduction and solid waste management professionals from the public sector, private industry and non-profit community. Through education and public forums, and through legislative advocacy RFT is committed to promoting resource conservation and environmental stewardship in Florida through recycling, waste prevention, reuse, composting and sustainable management of solid waste. For more information, visit RFT's website at [www.recyclefloridatoday.org](http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org)



kessler consulting inc.  
innovative waste solutions

May 10, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052 – authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Kessler Consulting, Inc. has been in business for over 22 years providing planning and policy services to over 100 counties and cities in Florida. Our company has been based in Tampa since 1988. We understand that waste reduction, reuse, composting, and recycling each play an important role in Florida's integrated waste management program. These conservation programs that our staff works on every day here in Florida helps to extend the life of landfills and reduce the amount of waste entering disposal facilities in order to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the impacts of Global Climate Change. *We urge you as the Governor to use your veto power regarding this language that we strongly oppose.*

Through our long-standing work in the State, we believe that the language in the HB 569 and SB 1052 authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill should be removed for the following reasons:

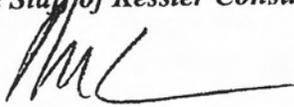
- Florida established the yard waste prohibition in the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act, in part to save valuable landfill capacity. Major steps backwards will be taken in waste reduction, composting and recycling if the language is repealed.
- Composting of yard waste is considered carbon neutral. Any methane produced in yard waste after being composted and added to soils is sequestered.
- It is inconsistent with the objectives of SB 570 and in meeting the State 75% recycling goal.
- Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs.
- It has potential to reduce jobs in the 264 thriving small to medium size businesses in Florida currently in the yard waste industry and put some out of business.

We ask that you seriously consider these arguments as you make your decision whether or not to put HB 569 into Florida law.

**(SIGNATURES ON BACK SIDE OF LETTER – TURN IT OVER)**

Sincerely,

*The Staff of Kessler Consulting, Inc.*



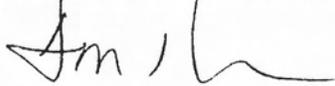
Mitch Kessler, Tampa, FL  
President



Miriam Zimms, Tampa, FL  
Project Manager/Senior Consultant



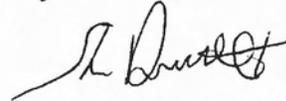
Don Ross, Dunedin, FL  
Project Manager/Senior Consultant



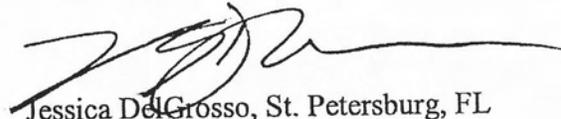
Maureen Schaefer, Tampa, FL  
Research Analyst



Robin Mitchell, St. Petersburg, FL  
Project Manager/Senior Consultant



Shane Barrett, Dunedin, FL  
Consultant



Jessica DeGrosso, St. Petersburg, FL  
Consultant



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capital  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: HB569 – Authorizing the Disposal of Yard Trash at a Class I Landfill

May 10, 2010

Dear Governor Crist,

Florida Potting Soils, Inc., a subsidiary of Sun Gro Horticulture, depends on a significant amount of yard waste and wood waste compost for utilization in the Horticulture, Agriculture, Turf Grass and Landscaping Industries. We are a company focused on a more environmental friendly method for dealing with composting to create a beneficial valued end product. This is not only a benefit to us, but in turn, is a huge environmental benefit for the reduction of the yard waste and wood waste deposited into the landfills.

Florida Potting Soils, Inc. has the reputation as “Florida’s premier source for custom blended potting soils”. Florida Potting Soils, Inc. has been in business for over thirty-five years, supporting the Green Industries and holds the highest standards for quality control for “Best Management Practices”. Through the years, we have focused on being the leader in sustainability through many existing programs such as our commitment to use less energy whenever possible, the use of locally sourced raw materials and peat land restoration programs to name just a few.

The compost materials derived from approximately 1 million yards of waste / wood waste is a significant part of our business. The yard waste and wood waste materials are reduced by 60%-70% through the reduction process. On an annual base, we use over 300,000 yards of finished resource compost materials for our custom blend potting soil mixes. We service over 1,250 active customers in the Horticultural, Agricultural, Landscaping and Turf Grass Industries. This product allows the growers and landscapers a more affordable product which is much needed for their survival during the toughest down turn in the Florida economy. Without these compost materials, the only alternatives would be materials that would cost three times as much. In addition, we would be forced to downsize our business structure which would result in unemployment to several employees. We would also depend on mining more peat lands in Florida and North America.

With the signing of this HB569, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill, it would be detrimental to the Green Industry and our business. I believe as many others do, that this is not the best solution for “Going Green” or is it an alternative for recycling a much needed key component for our business. I ask that you seriously consider these arguments as you make your decision whether or not to put HB569 into Florida Law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Biegler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Biegler  
General Manager



## Ocala Recycling Division

Phone: 352-351-0666 Fax: 352-351-2498

P.O Box 193 Silver Springs, FL 34489

May 11, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Fl 32399-001

RE: HB569 – Authorizing the Disposal of Yard Trash at Class 1 Landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Compost USA, Inc. is a company dedicated to a 100% green operation. We use 300,000 yards of yard trash and tree debris to compost sludge cake (bio-solids). Our process allows us to take wood mulch, used horse bedding and bio-solids and turn these resources into a nutrient rich soil amendment in 45 days, thus keeping these materials out of local landfills.

Our process is 100% green with no residual waste at the end, just a nutrient rich end product. This product is great for soil amendment, golf course and sports fields, lawns, as well as potting soils and use by farmers. Because of the yard and wood waste in our product it holds up to 10 times its own weight in moisture, thus reducing the need for excessive watering.

The yard waste, horse bedding and bio-solids are composted using our MSAP (Modified Static Aerobic Pile) and organic catalyst. The end product meets and exceeds all state and federal class AA requirements, with zero nitrates and less than 1 part per million phosphorus.

However if H.B.569 is signed into law allowing waste companies to land fill yard waste is will be extremely detrimental to our compost process as we use over 300,000 yards of yard waste and tree debris horse as well as 100,000 yards of bedding annually,

We are a company dedicated to the true "green industry" as are well on the path to make Florida 75% green by 2020. But, we cannot do this if the big waste companies landfill their green waste. H.B. 569 would cause unemployment of our staff as well as the certain death of our company. Please consider all of these facts before making H.B. 569 a Florida law.

I would also like to invite you to visit our website at [www.compostusa.net](http://www.compostusa.net) and we would be honored to have you visit our operation if your schedule allows.

Best regards,

Glen Stewart  
Chief Operating Officer

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS  
and  
BACTERIOLOGISTS  
Approved by State of California

# SOIL CONTROL LAB

42 HANGAR WAY  
WATSONVILLE  
CALIFORNIA  
95076  
USA

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a class 1 landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please **veto** the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052 that repeals Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills.

Landfills are **not** the place for any form of biomass. Biomass is better composted and used to improve Florida's soils used for agriculture. Compost added to soil reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, reduces water pollution, water use and works towards goals we must meet facing us in these times. .

Working towards increasing revenue for landfills is working **backwards**. Reducing landfills should be Governments goal. Government needs to find more environmental friendly ways to create jobs. Composting is one and the best means to get the most value from biomass by working for the farmer many years after application.

Sincerely

Frank Shields



3240 Gulf of Mexico Drive # 207B  
Longboat Key, Florida 34228

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

As a Florida resident and environmental contractor, I urge you to please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **It will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **It will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **It will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **It contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection notwithstanding is NOT recycling, as there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the



3240 Gulf of Mexico Drive # 207B  
Longboat Key, Florida 34228

purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

- **It contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA)**, the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology *“should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.”*

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

CycleLogic works with companies that generate, process, use, purchase or sell recyclable materials. Our primary focus is on the economical and ecological benefits inherent with the reuse of organic materials. CycleLogic incorporates recycling into decisions regarding which materials are mined, how they are used for manufacturing, when they are discarded, and how they are reused. In this manner, the cycling of the earth's finite resources only becomes limited by the mind's ability to imagine new uses.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Hill".

David M. Hill  
Principal,  
CycleLogic  
Environmental Marketing and Business Development



**TURBO-SCREWS™** *Heat up profits. Cool down costs.*

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May 12, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
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**TURBO-SCREWS™ Heat up profits. Cool down costs.**

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- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
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**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

*My company, Plastic Engineering Associates Licensing, Inc. is directly involved with NatureWorks, LLC, the world's leading manufacturer of bio-polymer (Polylactic Acid) made from plants. Composting facilities are a vital necessity for bio-polymers success as a remedy for lowering our dependency on foreign oil and promoting sustainable, renewable, and compostable packaging alternatives for US Citizens, including Floridians.*

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Bill Fogarty  
Vice President

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are primarily owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keeping profits within the state and using the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to their high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal - increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted rather than landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved storm water management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and

recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

- **Contradicts the position of the Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology “should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.”

Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Please do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn T. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathryn T. (Katie) Brown

Waste Reduction Specialist  
Solid Waste Management Department  
Hillsborough County, Florida



May 13, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0001

Re: HB 569 and HB 1052 authorizing the disposal of yard trash at Class I Landfills

Dear Governor Crist:

We wish to add our voice to those citizens asking you to veto a bill that is bad for the environment and bad for the economy. I'm sure you have received countless letters that clearly express the scientific reasons why methane capture and reuse in a landfill is inferior to composting as a carbon reduction strategy. Others have told you that if yard waste composting facilities go out of business, the landscapers and farmers of Florida will have to go elsewhere to purchase the soil that we now create locally, putting those farmers and landscapers at an even bigger economic disadvantage. There are studies that show that composting employs four times as many people as landfilling, which is especially important considering Florida's unemployment.

What I have not seen anyone else tell you is that when landfills want yard waste so that they can take advantage of subsidies or carbon credits for their methane capturing systems, they can afford to make the price of disposal so low that yard waste recyclers will go out of business. If you fail to veto this bill, we, along with the other 263 yard waste facilities registered in Florida will cease to exist. On the other hand, if you veto the bill, the consequence to the landfills will be minimal and not one of them will have to close because they lack the yard waste to make methane. Please stand by Florida's small, local, green businesses and veto this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria de la Portilla", with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Maria de la Portilla

Office Address:  
One South Drive  
Miami Springs, FL 33166  
(305) 885-1200  
Fax: (305) 887-0640

Facility Address:  
14530 NW 112 Avenue  
Hialeah Gardens, FL 33018  
(305) 362-6789  
Fax: (305) 362-6799

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee,  
FL 32399

Dear Governor Crist,

I implore you to veto HB 569 and SB 1052, bills that would repeal the state's ban on landfilling yard waste.

Before becoming a permanent Florida resident in 2008 I was living in Falls Church, VA and working as Executive Director of the Container Recycling Institute, a small non-profit organization located in my hometown, Washington, DC. Shortly after I retired to Amelia Island, Florida's legislature passed HB 7135 establishing a statewide recycling goal of 75% to be achieved by 2020. The goal is laudable, but will be difficult, if not impossible to reach, given current recycling infrastructures in the state. I have spoken to folks at FL DEP about ways to achieve the goal, including adoption of a container deposit law. Repealing the yard waste ban will certainly render the goal impossible to reach. It's difficult to understand how you could have adopted HB 7135 and then consider repealing HB 569 and HB 1052.

Sincerely,

Pat Franklin  
1427 Beach Walker Road  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

E-mail: [michael.heltzer@basf.com](mailto:michael.heltzer@basf.com)



---

South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District  
1450 N. Krome Ave., Suite 104  
Florida City, FL 33034  
(305) 242-1288 Fax (305) 242-1292  
[www.southdadeswcd.org](http://www.southdadeswcd.org)

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May 12, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing disposal of yard trash at a Class 1 landfill

Dear Governor Crist:

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

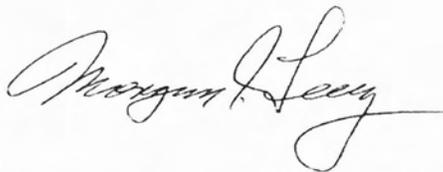
The following good reasons are offered to veto these bills:

1. **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products". Buying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
2. **Production of compost and mulch is a far better use of yard trash.** Florida's #2 economic engine is Agriculture and it can be preserved and strengthened by turning yard trash into compost and mulch. These valuable recycled products can help conserve water and add valuable nutrients to our poor Florida soil.
3. **Argument for production of methane is a ploy to increase landfill revenues.** The methane that escapes landfills is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. Over the life of a landfill only 20% of the methane may be captured. Composting and mulching of yard waste recycles 100%.

**23 States have bans in place on landfilling yard debris. NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. Governor Vilsack of Iowa vetoed a ban repeal stating, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management".**

The South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District, a non-profit, non-funded governmental subdivision of the State of Florida respectfully requests that you **continue to be The People's Governor" and veto this bill.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan I. Levy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Morgan I. Levy, Administrator

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

As a resident of Florida and an environmentalist, I want you to use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills.

One of the most important considerations is the reduction of greenhouse gases. Placing yard materials and other organics in a landfill increases the production of methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases.

At a recent USEPA conference on the impact of composting and landfills on greenhouse gases, it was determined that the return of compost and other organics sequesters carbon and therefore needs to be given credit.

On the other hand, less than 40 percent of the methane emitted by landfills is captured or even capable of being captured. Drive down to Broward or West palm Beach counties and you can smell the methane and other gases.

Furthermore, these gases seep into ground water and even into homes or business adjacent to landfills.

I urge you to veto these two bills.

As an Independent voter I hope to be able to vote for you.

Eliot Epstein  
9071 Fairbanks Lane, #1  
Boca Raton, FL 33496  
[epsteinee@comcast.net](mailto:epsteinee@comcast.net)



**TURBO-SCREWS™** *Heat up profits. Cool down costs.*

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May 12, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.



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**Heat up profits. Cool down costs.**

- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*"

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

*My company, Plastic Engineering Associates Licensing, Inc. is directly involved with NatureWorks, LLC, the world's leading manufacturer of bio-polymer (Polylactic Acid) made from plants. Composting facilities are a vital necessity for bio-polymers success as a remedy for lowering our dependency on foreign oil and promoting sustainable, renewable, and compostable packaging alternatives for US Citizens, including Floridians.*

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Bill Fogarty  
Vice President

P.E.A. Licensing, Inc. • 2300 N. W. Corporate Blvd. • Suite 111 • Boca Raton, FL 33431-7358, USA

☎ 561.998.4140 • 📠 561.998.5535 • 📧 [Sales@turboscrews.com](mailto:Sales@turboscrews.com) • 🌐 [www.turboscrews.com](http://www.turboscrews.com)

May 13, 2010

**Honorable Charlie Crist**

Governor of the State of Florida

The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill**

Dear Governor Crist,

I am very concerned about the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052 that would repeal Florida's longstanding ban on yard materials in landfills. I strongly urge you to veto these bills.

I am active in promoting compost production and use in Wisconsin through the private non-profit organization I work for and with our state wide recycling organization. I have often looked to Florida for their progressive approach to diverting organics from landfills and growing up of the compost industry.

Continuing the Florida landfill ban on yard material:

- Is about keeping thousands of jobs in Florida that are part of the composting industry and diversify the Florida economy.
- Is about improving soils in Florida through the recycling of yard materials.
- Is about reducing greenhouse gases from landfills not increasing them.
- And is about Florida's impact on other states' yard material recycling policies.

The Institute for Local Self Reliance has determined that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material. Healthy plants, healthy foods, healthy agriculture all start with healthy soil. Compost bring soil back to life because it is a living materials full of millions of beneficial microorganisms and fungi. Landfills do not improve soil.

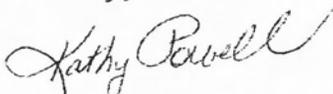
Returning yard materials to landfills will contribute little to energy production. The science is that little to no oxygen is present landfills: so yard materials decompose very slowly due to their high lignin content. The small amount of methane that might be produced will likely not even be captured because the efficiency of these systems ranges from 20-75%.

Yard materials are a resource that is too valuable to landfill. Valuable to the economy, valuable to food production, valuable to the horticultural industry and valuable to water quality through erosion control. Waste companies are using the energy argument as a smoke screen to cover their real goal putting more materials into the ground.

Landfilling yard materials is not recycling. It is wasteful and a misuse of a valuable resource. It is also counter to the EPA's hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle. Energy recovery from bioreactors and conventional landfills should happen but yard materials and other organics, such as food, should not be buried but reused.

Do not let Florida take a major step backward. Honor Florida's proud history of protecting the environment. Help Florida continue to move forward in organics recycling for the state and the country. Your veto is needed now.

Sincerely,



Kathy Powell, Education & Program Specialist  
Recycling Connections Corp PO Box 91 Stevens Point WI 54481  
715 343-0722 kathy@recyclingconnections.org

Earth Circle Conservation & Recycling  
33 Firth Road #1  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
May 11, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida

The Capitol

400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of **thousands** of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to their high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, and therefore would contribute an insignificant amount toward Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over a landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants, improved stormwater management, and **reduced use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals that currently pollute Florida's water-table.** As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory*

*efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.”*

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE has overturned this ban**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations and Republican legislatures. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

As a recycling and Zero Waste consultant, I have worked on several projects in Florida since 1990, and have had opportunities to observe the state’s many outstanding recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs in action. Given the tropical climate and extensive landscaping, there is high generation of yard waste and other organics. Their highest and best use in restoring Florida’s environment is to return them to the soil for agriculture and land reclamation. **This is the wisest route to conserve energy and fight global warming.**

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Gretchen Brewer

Principal

Earth Circle

[earthcirclegb@gmail.com](mailto:earthcirclegb@gmail.com)

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment. **23 other states in the US have bans in place on landfilling yard debris and NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. Governor Vilsack in Iowa another agricultural State has stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management" in 2003. Florida should also stay progressive and not veto HB 569 and SB 1052,

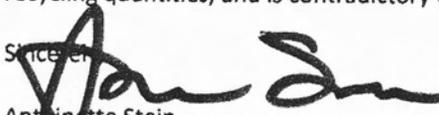
Please veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052 because it **hurts Florida and US environment**. Florida relies on its agricultural resources and its essential that we promote legislation and policies that harmoniously conserve and maintain Florida's agricultural resources. The State's researchers have shown that yard trimmings that are composted benefits our agricultural environment resulting in improved crop yields. Additionally there are missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management.

Please veto HB 569 and SB 1052 because sending yardwaste to the landfill is from a lifecycle assessment BAD for the environment regarding Climate Change. Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled.

Please veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052 to support **Florida's small businesses**. The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

Also, HB 569 and SB 1052 **Contradicts** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

Sincerely,

  
Antoinette Stein

Zero Waste Task Force of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties  
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Berkeley, CA 94707 tweil@igc.org



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Minneapolis, MN 55414-1546  
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Fax: (612) 379-3920

www.ilsr.org  
info@ilsr.org

May 13, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. The ban on landfill disposal of yard trimmings is essential to protect and expand Florida's composting industry. **Your veto is critical in order to sustain existing businesses and jobs in the state and to provide the opportunity to create many more jobs.** The potential to grow the composting infrastructure in Florida is huge. Such growth will bring myriad benefits to the state beyond green jobs: soil revitalization, reduced landfill emissions, public and private sector savings on solid waste management costs, better crop yields, and more. By overturning the landfill ban on yard trimmings, HB 569 and SB 1052 are bad for the economy and bad for the environment. The ban provides a needed institutional/policy framework to encourage composting over disposal.

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are, for the most part, owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keeping profits within the state and using the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance has documented that composting, on a per-ton basis, creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling or burning the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over a

landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). In the short-term (20 year time horizon), the methane that escapes has a global warming potential 72 times more potent than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard materials were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.

- **Contradicts Florida's own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trimming material in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*"

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance's 2008 report, *Stop Trashing the Climate*, provides compelling evidence that expanded composting is one of the fastest, cheapest, and most effective strategies available for combating climate change. This report also dispels myths about the climate benefits of landfill gas recovery and waste incineration. Significantly decreasing waste disposed in landfills and incinerators could reduce greenhouse gas emissions the equivalent to closing 21% of U.S. coal-fired power plants. This is comparable to leading climate protection proposals such as improving national vehicle fuel efficiency. Indeed, preventing waste and expanding reuse, recycling, and composting are essential to put us on the path to climate stability.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor: veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brenda Platt  
Co-Director

Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
[bjplatt@ilsr.org](mailto:bjplatt@ilsr.org), 202-898-1610 x230



Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

May 13, 2010

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

We strongly urge you to VETO HB 569 and SB 1052, which would repeal Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

Florida residents and businesses produce yard debris all year round. Rather than being a burden to manage, these materials are an asset to the agricultural community through composting operations. Composting returns these materials and their nutrients to the soil where they can help retain water, reduce erosion, reduce the need for hazardous pesticide and fertilizer applications whose runoff pollutes local waterways, and store carbon in the soil, helping in the fight against climate change.

This current bill will threaten thousands of jobs in the local Florida composting industry that were created in part by the landfill ban on yard waste. The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

The powerful landfill lobby (a \$50 billion industry) would have you believe there are vast amounts of energy to be gained by this bill but in reality, the industry has its sights set on the increased revenues gained by increasing tonnage through its gates. Yard trimmings, due to their high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.

The current landfill ban is one of the best tools you have to prevent potent greenhouse gas emissions. Methane will trap 72 times more heat in our atmosphere over the next 20 years than CO<sub>2</sub>. The IPCC found landfills may capture as little as 20% of methane emissions over the life of the landfill. This means you will most likely increase your climate emissions by burying yard waste, not decrease them as the landfill industry would have you believe.

The State of Florida has an ambitious recycling goal, and this proposed law directly contradicts Florida Statutes, Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, which defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

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# eco-cycle

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

It also contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA), the national association representing the landfill industry.

Of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

While communities around the country and world (including all of the European Union) are moving toward keeping all organic materials—yard trimmings and food scrap—out of landfills to protect our climate and create jobs, this bill would move Florida in the wrong direction for your climate, your soils and local jobs. The Florida Legislature hastily committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. **Do the right thing, Governor Crist, and veto this bill.**

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Eric Lombardi, Executive Director

Eco-Cycle is one of the largest non-profit recyclers in the USA and has an international reputation as a pioneer and innovator in resource conservation. We were created 30 years ago by everyday residents who had a passionate belief in conserving our natural resources. These Eco-Cycle volunteers brought recycling to town in 1976, making Boulder one of the first 20 communities in the U.S. to offer curbside recycling. We continue to be driven by these same passions and innovative actions. Eco-Cycle's mission is to identify, explore and demonstrate the emerging frontiers of sustainable resource management through the concepts and practices of Zero Waste. We believe in individual and community action to transform society's throw-away ethic into environmentally-responsible stewardship. Learn more at [www.ecocycle.org](http://www.ecocycle.org).

# EISENMANN

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, do not decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA)**, the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology *“should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.”*

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

EISENMANN Corporation is currently working with developers in the Southeast on Energy from Waste projects that would be negatively impacted by this change in policy. Development on projects would be halted resulting in the loss project development and construction jobs as well as on-going green-collar operations jobs.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Adam Halsband  
Business Development Manager  
**EISENMANN Corporation**  
Tel: 815.477.3232  
Cell: 815.482.4335  
eMail: [adam.halsband@eisenmann.com](mailto:adam.halsband@eisenmann.com)  
Web: [www.EISENMANN.com](http://www.EISENMANN.com)

Dear Governor Crist:

BASF Corporation supports the position of the U.S. Composting Council in urging a veto of HB 569/SB 1052, measures repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. BASF has operations in the State of Florida in Quincy and Jacksonville.

To date, 23 states have bans in place on landfilling yard debris. None of these bans have been overturned, and with good reason. Most importantly, these bans protect the environment. According to information provided by the U.S. Composting Council, only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by a collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from not using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. Florida State researchers have shown that compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. We hope that you will continue this tradition.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org).

Sincerely,

Michael E. Heltzer  
Government Affairs Manager  
BASF Corporation  
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Florham Park, NJ 07932  
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E-mail: [michael.heltzer@basf.com](mailto:michael.heltzer@basf.com)



3511 Cleveland Road West  
Huron, Ohio 44839  
Phone: (419) 433-5525 or Toll Free (800) 421-8722

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The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: House Bill 569

May 10, 2010

Dear Governor Crist,

I am writing in strong support of the Florida Recycles Today position **against** HB 569, which, if signed, would allow yard waste back into Florida's landfills. That action would set Florida's environmental sustainability efforts back 20 years.

I have been involved in the composting business nationally since the early 1990's and have seen the growing importance and credibility of yard waste diversion programs. Visiting Florida each year I watch individuals carefully separate their yard waste—it is habit and it is sustainable. New products are made from these materials that add nutrients back to the soils. The literature is rich with the proven benefits of the process and products.

The future potential is huge. Many more organic materials (food, packaging) can be recovered from landfills, but yard debris is a prerequisite to handling the more putrescent materials. The compost created is fabulous! Referred to on the greater scale as BIO-MASS, organics are one more terrific option for sustainable energy creation. Digester technology captures almost 100% of the methane AND creates a digestate at the end that is a wonderful soil additive. And it consumes no landfill space!

If House Bill 569 is signed into law, Florida will STOP and REVERSE existing and future efforts to develop and grow a range of biomass composting to digester facilities. These facilities are the new industry, new jobs and a vital piece of the sustainable energy menu for the new economy. When new industry survey's Florida's green initiatives before selecting a place to settle, this move could add to the tipping point. Young vital companies want to move where the outlook for a sustainable future is best.

Nationally the landfill industry is taking a hit from the economic downturn. The fact is many industrial residuals are being designed for feedstocks into new processes. Industry is finding that being green is a boom to their bottom line. While good landfills are a necessary part of our country's infrastructure, and methane capture is a good thing, it makes no sense at all to allow yard waste back into those cells to make methane for an inefficient capture and to fill a finite hole in the ground. Those biomass resources need to be driven to the businesses that will fuel the future economy—new jobs, better soils, a greener future for the sunshine state! It's in your hands.

Sincerely,



3511 Cleveland Road West  
Huron, Ohio 44839  
Phone: (419) 433-5525 or Toll Free (800) 421-8722

---

Sharon Barnes  
Barnes Nursery, Inc.

I have been employed in the composting industry for twenty years. Below is a recent photo of a tree that was nearly dead in 2004. We applied four yards of compost to the tree's drip line and incorporated it into the root zone using a pipe & garden hose. As you can see the homeowner & neighbors are still enjoying that tree and it is still helping clean the air.

I met an arborist that was doing the same thing in New York city. I have also taught contractors how to use compost in erosion control as it not only stops silt it also breaks down hydrocarbons contained in run-off.

The compost industry is still just beginning, I have been promoting it for twenty years in my hometown and local extension people still don't understand all the benefits.

Please stop any legislation that cripples such an important industry.

Thank you,

Myron Hirschman  
Hirsch Systems LC  
215 East Grade Street  
Winterset, Iowa 50273  
515-229-1025 cell  
[www.hirschsystems.com](http://www.hirschsystems.com)



Governor Crist,

Just a brief message from Massachusetts to share with you the information that yard trimmings will benefit your state far more in a compost operation (backyard, municipal, or commercial) than in a landfill where they will do a great deal of harm via the generation of methane gas.

I would think that Florida would be especially concerned about climate instability caused by this greenhouse gases. Attached is a fact sheet generated by Sierra Club Massachusetts that explains the mechanisms by which more methane is released from landfills facilities that produce electricity than by those which simply flare and burn the gas.

To repeal the ban on yard trimmings would bring the worse kind of attention to the state of Florida--that of leading the way down the wrong road.

Regards,  
Lynne Pledger  
Massachusetts



# NEW LANDFILL REGS NEEDED

## EPA gas-to-energy policy worsens global warming

### 1. Common practices at commercial LFGTE (landfill gas-to-energy) facilities INCREASE methane release to the atmosphere, where it contributes to global warming.

- Landfill gas is a mix of gases (methane, carbon dioxide, and other toxic compounds in much smaller amounts). Methane forms only in moist, airless spaces. In landfills, more moisture means more methane. Oxygen, on the other hand, prevents methane from forming. Therefore, **the proportion of methane in landfill gas depends on the percentage of moisture and the absence of oxygen in any given landfill, or portion of a landfill, at any given time.**
- There is not always enough methane in landfill gas to run internal combustion engines for producing electricity. Incoming Municipal Solid Waste has 20-25% moisture, with rain accumulating in pockets. Often more moisture is needed for the operation to be profitable.
- To increase the proportion of methane in the gas, many LFGTE operators use the following methods, which *increase the volume of gas that escapes from the waste mass into the atmosphere* in the following ways:<sup>1</sup>
  - I. *Turning off or turning down gas collection wells on a rotating basis to recharge each field with moisture.* The suction of gas collection dries out the waste so that less methane forms. When suction is absent or reduced to increase moisture (and methane), gas rises into the atmosphere.
  - II. *Reducing the suction in collection wells to limit oxygen from being drawn into the waste mass, where it would inhibit the formation of methane.* Reduced suction allows more gas to rise into the atmosphere.
  - III. *Delaying installation of the final cover and grading slopes to encourage moisture infiltration by rain, snow, and runoff.* Precipitation causes more methane generation in the waste, and lack of cover allows more landfill gas to escape into the atmosphere.<sup>2</sup>
  - IV. *Recirculating leachate to increase moisture.* Leachate is liquid that accumulates in landfills. Regulations require that it be drained away from the waste mass. If instead, leachate is recirculated, saturated conditions and subsidence of the waste can damage or reduce the effectiveness of the collection pipes, thus allowing more gas to rise from the waste into the atmosphere.
- These practices increase the percentage of methane in the waste, and decrease gas collection efficiency. The waste industry does not deny using these methods to increase methane formation.<sup>3</sup> The US EPA must evaluate the impacts and regulate landfills accordingly, to reduce global warming emissions.

### 2. US EPA regulations overestimate the amount of landfill methane captured, and underestimate the global warming impacts of escaped methane.

- No satisfactory methods have been developed to measure fugitive landfill emissions; all claims are estimates.<sup>4</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes reports that over the lifetime of a landfill, the percent of gas captured may be “as low as 20%.”<sup>5</sup>
- Calculated over a 20-year period-- the time-frame critical for combating climate change

--methane is 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Therefore, the impact of methane released from the LFGTE practices described above, dwarfs the CO<sub>2</sub> offset from electricity production that is the rationale for operating these facilities.

### 3. Organic material should be diverted from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfills to curtail production of landfill methane and its global warming impact.

- Between half and two-thirds of our discards are organic: yard trimmings, soiled paper and food scraps, with lesser quantities of pet waste, diapers, textiles and wood. When these organics are buried in landfills, the lack of air causes methane to be formed as the material decomposes. Landfills without organics would not produce methane.
- Organic materials now going to MSW landfills can be safely composted instead. Compost facilities do not release methane to the atmosphere.<sup>6</sup> If anaerobic digestion is used prior to composting, methane can be collected and used for energy. Read about collection and processing of organics in 121 North American communities at [http://beyondrecycling.org/pdf\\_files/FinalReport.pdf](http://beyondrecycling.org/pdf_files/FinalReport.pdf), and track new programs at [www.beyondrecycling.org](http://www.beyondrecycling.org).

### 4. US EPA should regulate landfills to reduce current and future methane release.

While diverting organics from MSW landfills is critical, that step alone does not address organic waste already landfilled, or the period of transition from landfilling to composting. At a minimum the EPA should require the following measures to reduce climate impacts:<sup>7</sup>

a) *To curtail methane generation:*

(1) **Installation of vertical collectors, maximum slopes and final cover.** Each landfill cell should be designed to reach final grade in not more than two years from first waste emplacement, and then capped within another year; (2) **Leachate recirculation prohibited**, at least until after an expandable low-permeability cover and active gas collection system have been installed; (3) **De-watering of flooded vertical wells.**

b) *To capture methane that has been generated:*

(4) **Horizontal collectors installed early**, with each elevation change, spaced to overlap each pipe's zone of influence, and operated as soon as possible; (5) **No co-utilization of collectors for gas and liquid**; (6) **Vertical well density**: should not be more than every 150 feet; (7) **Multiple wells in the same bore holes** to allow for distinct and optimal negative pressures at each level; (8) **Gas collected at leachate take-out points**; (9) **Multiple seals around bore holes**, where collection wells penetrate the final composite cover; (10) **Optical remote scanning (ORS)** should be researched, and considered for leak detection over all surface areas of the landfill.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Anderson, "Comments to the California Air Resources Board" (Center for a Competitive Waste Industry, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> Don Augenstein, "Landfill Operation for Carbon Sequestration and Maximum Methane Emission Control: Controlled Landfilling Demonstration Cell Performance for Carbon Sequestration, Greenhouse Gas Emission Abatement and Landfill Methane Energy," (Final Report, Institute for Environmental Management, February 26, 2000).

<sup>3</sup> For example, "...*applied vacuums are limited* to prevent air intrusion and only collect the amount of high quality LFG necessary to meet energy needs." [Emphasis added.], SCS Engineers, Inc. for Solid Waste Industry for Climate Solutions, *Current MSW Industry Position and State-of-the Practice on LFG Collection Efficiency, Methane Oxidation, and Carbon Sequestration in Landfills* (July 2007), at p.2.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, at p.1

<sup>5</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007. *Mitigation of Climate Change: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group III Report*, Chapter 10: Waste Management, page 600.

<sup>6</sup> Sally Brown, et al., "Greenhouse Gas Balance for Composting Operations," *Journal of Environmental Quality* 37:1396 (2009), at p.1407.

<sup>7</sup> For details see, "Sierra Club Landfill Gas to Energy Task Force, Report to the Board," Appendix B, 2010 (Sierra Club)



May 12, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, Authorizing The Disposal of Yard Trimmings At Class I Landfills

Dear Governor Crist:

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of thousands of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life the methane capture rate may be as low as 20%. The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than carbon dioxide. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated from diverting yard trimmings away from landfills for processing at commercial composting facilities, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. Remember, after the inefficient landfill energy extraction process is complete, the digested yard trimmings remain entombed in the landfill. The organic nutrients are not further processed into a compost to be reintroduced into society. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

TURNING EARTH, LLC

AN ORGANICS RECYCLING COMPANY

97 Maple Wood Drive, Brewster, NY 10509 | Telephone. 845 259 8400 | Facsimile. 845 622 3649 | [www.turningearthllc.com](http://www.turningearthllc.com)



- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA)**, the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology “*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*”

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

Turning Earth, LLC is developing integrated organics recycling facilities for the production of biogas, high value compost and local food production. These activities occur outside of landfills using mature technologies capable of capturing virtually 100% of the methane from these organic streams. Importantly, these non-landfill based operations are designed to further process the organics after the energy extraction process is complete into high value compost. Unless you veto this bill, Florida will become much less attractive to us as we look for expansion opportunities.

Please do not be fooled by the false choice being made in this proposed legislation. There are other and much better ways to extract energy from organics and still produce valuable compost. Landfill biogas projects are not the solution. This is a desperate move by landfills to drive more volume to landfills. More volume means more tip fees (revenues) at great expense to the economy and environment.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Managing Director and Founder  
Turning Earth, LLC

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# eco-cycle

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: **Please VETO this “brown” legislation HB 569 and SB 1052** that allows the landfilling of green yard trimmings (grass and leaves) in a landfill !!

Dear Governor Crist,

We are a large recycler in Colorado we are aghast at what Florida is doing here. Please stop this self-serving move by the landfill industry to increase their gate profits by destroying the Florida composting industry and increasing your state greenhouse gases. The struggle to build a recycling and composting economy is working worldwide, so this new legislation goes against one of the few good news stories about the environment. We were just cheering Florida for your new goal of 75% recycling, but now we are about to start jeering!

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida’s longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this landfill ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

Sincerely,

Eric Lombardi  
Executive Director  
Eco-Cycle Inc.  
Boulder, CO  
[www.ecocycle.org](http://www.ecocycle.org)  
303-444-6634

---

Boulder Office • P.O. Box 19006, Boulder, CO 80308-2006 • Tel: 303-444-6634 • Fax: 303-444-6647  
Longmont Office • 140 Martin Street, Longmont, CO 80501 • Tel: 303-772-7300 • Fax: 303-772-1688  
Broomfield Office • 225 Commerce Street, Broomfield, CO 80020 • Tel: 303-404-2839 • Fax: 303-404-2583



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.

*Novozymes North America, Inc.  
Composting Department  
77 Perry Chapel Church Road  
P.O. Box 576  
Franklinton, North Carolina 27525*

- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*"

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

Our company's slogan is "Re Think Tomorrow". We embrace this Novozymes by believing in sustainable practices that benefit both the economy and the environment. The State of Florida must look toward the future and leave a healthier planet for our children to inherit.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Frank Franciosi  
 Novozymes NA, Inc.

*Novozymes North America, Inc.  
 Composting Department  
 77 Perry Chapel Church Road  
 P.O. Box 576  
 Franklinton, North Carolina 27525*



# ALMSTEAD

TREE & SHRUB CARE CO.

58 Beechwood Avenue  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
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Fax (914) 576-5448  
www.almstead.com

arbor care plant health care lawn care organic consulting

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

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Governor Crist,

It is imperative that you do not repeal the ban that does not allow yard waste into landfills. Yard “waste” is really not waste at all but a valuable resource that holds great fertility for our soils. With rapid top soil loss (which hurts US food systems) and methane release from landfills (which contributes to climate change), it is important that yard waste not go into landfills, but rather fertilize our soils.

Thank you for taking the best action on this issue, and encouraging systems in Florida that capture and utilize the value of yard waste.

Laura Fieselman  
Sustainability Coordinator, Meredith College  
Senior Fellow, Environmental Leadership Program  
919.760.8899, [www.meredith.edu/sustainability](http://www.meredith.edu/sustainability)

5/11/10

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

I have personally worked for 29 years to promote the recycling of yard waste materials throughout the nation, designed and sold machines necessary to make a recycled product from yard waste materials plus owned and operated the first permitted yard waste recycling facility in Florida (Tampa, FL 1989). Yard waste material is one of the few materials that can be recycled economically, needing no subsidies from the state or federal government, but unfortunately, those who have a financial interest in being able to transport this material to the landfills have no interest in losing tip fees by seeing this material recycled and are the only ones who will benefit from passage of these bills. Additionally, without the ban waste hauling companies are in a position to force yard waste producers, including government, to use their services by withholding other necessary services. I experienced this first hand when attempting to set up yard waste recycling on the Keys in the late 1980's.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- Will hurt Florida's small businesses. The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

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Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations and Republican legislatures. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact me or the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Regards,  
Powell Clinton  
Earthsaver Equipment, Inc.  
[www.earthsaverequipment.com](http://www.earthsaverequipment.com)  
(406) 752-6290



**CLK**  
**Systems, Inc.**

**847.344.2365**

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RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

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WeCare



Organics

"Leaders in Beneficial Use...  
traditions and technologies"

May 13, 2010

*Via Overnight Delivery*  
Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill**

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
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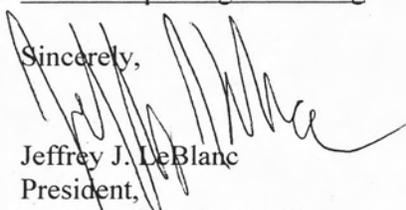
WeCare Organics LLC are "leaders in beneficial use, technologies and traditions." WeCare Organics is responsible for the final resolution of the largest volumes of non-hazardous residual waste streams in the Eastern United States. Providing turnkey residuals management products and services to public and private communities alike, WeCare Organics is the responsible, single-source solution in the ever-changing world of residuals management.

Our interests in Florida are twofold: First, our technologies division has a partner in Max West, a high-tech gasification firm, operating a facility in Sanford, Florida. Second, compost marketing as an industry. We are the leading compost marketers on the East Coast and a major market like Florida removing a key compost component from the process, yard waste, could damage the market, and the future of Green innovation nationwide. Florida is a leader in the green revolution and WeCare Organics LLC does not want to see that leadership falter one step.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. DeBlanc  
President,  
WeCare Organics LLC

[www.wecareorganics.com](http://www.wecareorganics.com)

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Please VETO HB 569: authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

**HB 569 and SM 1052:**

- **Hurts Small Businesses**
- **Releases More Global Warming Methane**
- **Hurts Gardeners and Farmers**
- **Uses Scarce landfill Space**

Dear Governor Crist,

In this year's legislative session, language was passed in HB 569 and SM 1052 repealing Florida's longstanding ban against allowing yard trash in landfills. Florida established this prohibition in the 1988 Solid Waste Management Act, in part to save valuable landfill capacity. As a result, both the public and private sectors in Florida have invested millions of dollars in separate collection programs and processing facilities and have developed diverse markets for products produced from yard trash (mulch, composts, potting soils, etc.). In most areas of Florida, these facilities are the most affordable local source of healthy soil amendments for Florida's gardeners, farmers and landscapers.

**I am writing to urge you to veto HB 569 and SM 1052.**

If enacted, these bills will undermine the 264 facilities registered in Florida who receive and process yard trash at the same time as they redirect valuable organic matter away from our soil and into damaging methane-producing landfills.

Don't devastate the many small businesses in this sector for a slight increase in profits for big businesses running landfills. The Institute for Local Self Reliance says that composting alone creates four jobs for every one created in a landfill.

The wording of HB 569 would lead you to believe that the "waste industry" is out to capture methane and generate electricity from this capture. This is not the case; A representative of "Waste Management" testified before the Senate General Government

Appropriations Committee and Environmental Preservation and Conservation that the waste industry simply wishes to no longer have to make two separate pickups allowing the segregation of yard waste and household garbage. They would rather save a dime and roll back one of Florida's most important environmental measures by picking both up at once.

It is important to note that yard trash, of which leaves and branches make up 90% of the content, are a poor feedstock for methane production because of the lignin content. Less than 30% of leaf mass and branches decompose in a landfill environment. According to DEP, of the 30% which do decompose and create methane only 75-90% of the methane is captured. Environmentally, methane is thirty times more harmful to the earth's atmosphere than that of Carbon Dioxide. On the other hand, composting of yard waste is considered carbon neutral. The methane produced in yard waste after being composted and added to soils is sequestered, while the organic matter from these natural materials return valuable nutrients to Florida's soil.

Farmers, gardeners and landscapers around the state of Florida depend on the mulch, soil amendments and compost from the facility processing yard waste for the core materials for their farms, gardens and landscapes. Their ready availability and free or affordable prices make growing environmentally-friendly landscapes and vegetable gardens a possibility for tens of thousands of Floridians who are working on making their homes, businesses and communities more enjoyable and sustainable. Eliminating this resource and instead having those same raw materials used to worsen global warming is lunacy.

The list of reasons to veto this language are many but most importantly, by writing HB 569 into law it will put 264 thriving small businesses in Florida out of business. I believe as many others do that this is the anti-thesis to Florida's goal during this year's legislative session. I ask that you seriously consider these arguments as you make your decision whether or not to put HB 569 into Florida law.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hildebran  
Executive Director  
Green Florida

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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Our company has been in the Organics Recycling Industry for over 37 years. We have close associations with companies such as ours that are located in Florida. This decision, if allowed to become law, will in our opinion be used by the waste disposal industry to steamroll similar legislation across the county and will have extremely detrimental effects on the recycling industry and will reverse many many years of economic and environmental victory’s. Having Florida become the poster-child for reversing now proven economical and environmental policy is a travesty. Please do not allow this to happen.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

*Bob Yost*

Vice President,  
New Business Development  
A1 Organics - US Composting Council "Composter of the Year"  
Ph: 970-454-1711  
Cell: 303-710-9121  
Fax: 866-877-1989  
Website: [www.a1organics.com](http://www.a1organics.com)



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Kansas City, MO  
64118  
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FAX 816-455-6526

Honorable Charlie Crist  
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The Capitol  
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We are a Missouri Organic Recycling company, and have a vested interest in seeing that the yard waste is not put back in landfills. We believe that if you pass these bills it will lead the way for other states to follow you. This could hurt all future recycling efforts throughout the country.

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Sincerely,  
Kevin Anderson  
Missouri Organic Recycling



**Peterson**  
an Astec Industries Co.

PO Box 40490, Eugene, OR 97404  
29408 Airport Road, Eugene, OR 97402

Phone: 541.689.6520  
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[www.petersoncorp.com](http://www.petersoncorp.com)

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Peterson is a supplier of chipping and grinding equipment to the wood recycling industry. We believe that land filling organic material to produce methane gas is not the highest value use for this valuable material. There are many more efficient ways to produce energy such as high solids anaerobic digesters which also provide a residue that is a useful soil amendment.

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Sincerely,

Larry Cumming

President,

Peterson

an Astec Industries Co.

PO Box 40490

Eugene OR 97404 USA

Office 1 541 689 6520

Mobile 1 541 968 4446

[Larry.Cumming@petersoncorp.com](mailto:Larry.Cumming@petersoncorp.com)

Honorable Charlie Crist

Governor of the State of Florida

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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*Farmer Automatic of America as well as many additional companies have spent years in research, design, & sales of composting equipment to handle yard waste. Many operations within your own state have been able to turn this yard waste into a value added product for personal use, while eliminating it from the waste stream going into our already limited land fill space of the future. Passage of this bill would truly be a step backwards for the great state of Florida and be a further burden on long term land fill space for our citizens.*

Sincerely,

Thank you  
David Leavell  
Farmer Automatic of America  
574-857-3116  
574-857-2112 fax  
[leavell309@gmail.com](mailto:leavell309@gmail.com)  
or  
[dleavell@farmerautomatic.com](mailto:dleavell@farmerautomatic.com)

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
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As a former resident of your most beautiful state I plead to veto the language contained in HB 569 that repeals Florida's ban on dumping yard debris in landfills. We use wood waste to build our products and we offer kits that empower residents of Florida to build their own furniture from waste wood.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor<veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

--

William Callahan  
Tamalpais NatureWorks  
816 B Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415-454-9948

<http://www.tamalpais.com>

Builder of the world's most sustainable furniture.



May 16, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
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- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- **Contradicts the position of Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA),** the national association representing the landfill industry. In a joint position statement in 2006 by SWANA and the USCC, it states that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*"

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on land-filling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

Harvest Power develops, builds, owns and operates next-generation organics recycling facilities that harvest the renewable energy, nutrients, and organic matter from discarded organic materials using best-in-class technologies for composting, anaerobic digestion, and biomass gasification. We are on the front lines of organic waste management across North America.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Tom Kelley  
Harvest Power, Inc.



# ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

"We Build Healthy Soil"

## Officers & Directors

### President

**Jeff Ziegenbein**  
Inland Empire  
Utility Agency

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of Los Angeles  
County

### Board Member

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Garick  
Corporation

### Executive Director

**Dan Noble**  
Inquiry  
International

May 14, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The Association of Compost Producers (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations *dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California*. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that *build healthy soil*, benefiting people and protecting air, water and soil. ACP members work and *invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost product & manufacturing standards*. The association provides *education & communication* on compost benefits & proper use through support of scientific *research & legislation* aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets. As an agricultural state like California, Florida should support industries such as composting that can help to create sustainable, cost effective agricultural production.

ACP is also a state chapter of the US Composting Council, who filed a position statement, jointly with other solid waste and recycling associations in 2006 stating that advances in landfill technology "*should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal.*"

**As collaborators with agencies and associations nationwide, we support the arguments that have been developed including the following reasons to veto the proposed bill language:**

**Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

**Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high energy carbon content (in the woody material known as lignin), decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.

**Will hurt the formation of food waste recycling programs.** Florida, like only a few other leading states in the Union, are leading the formation of food waste recycling programs. These programs have the potential of reducing the amount of "waste" that ends up in the landfill, by beneficially composting it with other green waste, it can be returned to the soil to maintain healthy living soil in Florida. These two programs, yard trimmings and food waste, must work together, so keeping them both out landfills will support the further development of the compost industry for which Florida is already a leader.

**Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.

**Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

Association of Compost Producers  
*"We Build Healthy Soil"*

Your support of a veto on this legislation will show support for sustainable agriculture, small businesses in Florida, and the environment.

Thank you

Sincerely,  
Dan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Noble", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Noble  
Executive Director  
Bus: (619) 303-3694  
Cell: (619) 992-8389  
Fax: (619) 589-9905  
[dan@resourcetrends.com](mailto:dan@resourcetrends.com)  
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4361 Keystone Ave. • Culver City, CA 90232  
Telephone (310) 559-7451 • Fax (310) 839-1142  
[www.container-recycling.org](http://www.container-recycling.org)  
[www.bottlebill.org](http://www.bottlebill.org)

May 13, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many: Will hurt Florida's small businesses. The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

- Will not contribute to energy independence. Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
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Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management." [Add information about you and/or your company here. Mention any connections to the Florida economy]

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor-veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Susan V. Collins  
Executive Director



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: Request Veto of HB 569 and SB 1052, Authorizing Landfilling of Yard Residuals

Dear Governor Crist,

As Director of the Waste and Materials Management Bureau at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, I am writing to convey my deep concern with recently passed legislation, HB 569 and SB 1052, which would repeal Florida's longstanding ban on the landfilling of yard residuals. I believe this legislation is bad environmental policy and bad economic policy. Not only would it adversely affect Florida—it would also set a terrible precedent with the potential for grave consequences in Wisconsin and the rest of the nation.

Including Florida, 23 states have wisely banned the landfilling of yard residuals. Wisconsin's ban dates back to 1993 and has not only resulted in the saving of many millions of cubic yards of landfill space, but more importantly has prevented the release of significant quantities of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. Much of the methane generated in landfills by yard materials is emitted to the atmosphere before capture systems can be constructed. Even after gas capture systems are in place, significant volumes of methane escape capture. Because methane's global warming potential is more than 20 times as powerful as carbon dioxide, the methane released through inefficiencies in landfill gas capture results in a net *increase* in greenhouse gas emissions even after accounting for energy production and offsetting of fossil fuel combustion.

From an economic standpoint, the diversion of yard residuals from landfilling has supplied abundant soil-enriching compost that has improved agricultural fields, gardens and landscapes all across the state, supporting jobs in the recycling, composting, agricultural and horticultural sectors of Wisconsin's economy. Ton for ton, yard residuals used for compost provide many times more jobs than would be created simply by landfilling this material. Composting adds value; landfilling destroys value. This is why recycling and composting jobs in the aggregate pay substantially more than waste industry jobs. Landfilling yard materials would be a step backwards for Florida's economy, robbing Florida's reuse markets of a primary feedstock and costing Florida good-paying jobs.

The composting of yard residuals is a sustainable practice that benefits the local, national and global environment. By contrast, the landfilling of yard residuals, even with energy recovery through methane capture and combustion, is fundamentally unsustainable because the materials are only partially converted to energy, and the organic residues themselves are wasted and lost to productive use forever. Moreover, yard residues provide relatively little recoverable energy value due to their composition and behavior in the landfill environment. Landfill operators don't achieve much benefit from the methane gas produced from landfilled yard residuals, but they are attracted by the additional revenue to be gained from accepting these materials for burial within their facilities.

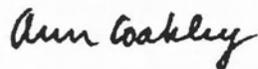
Society benefits greatly from every ton of yard residuals kept out of the landfill. This has not prevented certain landfill operators from attempting to overturn the landfill bans to increase their intake of materials for permanent disposal. Landfill operators stand to gain from a reversal of Florida's disposal ban on yard residuals, but Florida's citizens will be the worse off for any such reversal. The case against landfilling yard materials is so compelling that the landfill industry's own trade association, the Solid Waste Association of North America, recently issued a joint policy statement with the United States Composting Council stating that

*"SWANA and the USCC agree that composting of organic materials is the highest and best use of these residuals and that emphasis should continue to be placed on recovering and recycling as much organic waste as possible from the solid waste stream."*

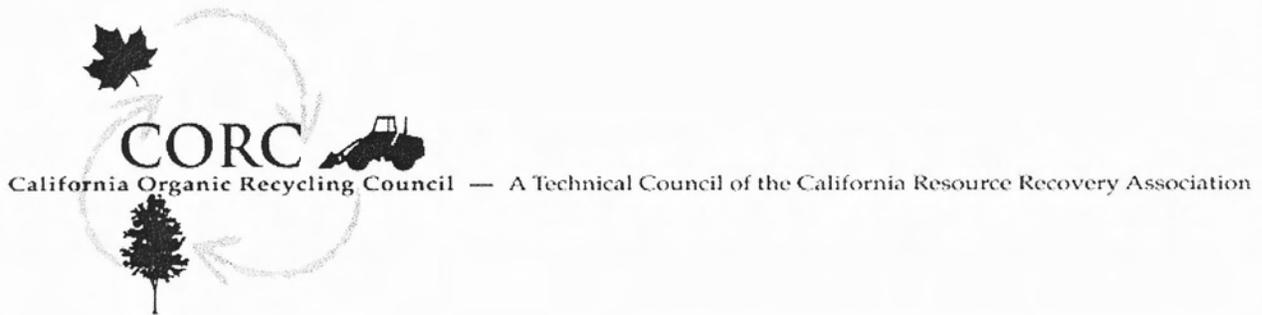
As I understand the Florida legislation, it compounds the potential damage by including an additional provision that would allow recycling credit to be given for yard residuals that are landfilled in a facility that captures gas for energy production. Because the primary outcome of this legislation would be to *diminish* recycling of yard residuals through composting (which returns the material to productive use) by diverting recyclable material to permanent underground burial, the addition of this provision seems a surreal distortion to mask the true legislative intent.

**I strongly urge you to use your veto power to turn aside this misguided legislation and preserve the economic and environmental benefits of Florida's enlightened strategy for managing yard residuals – outside of landfills.**

Sincerely,



Ann M. Coakley, Director  
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The California Organics Recycling Council (CORC) is a technical council for the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA), representing a coalition of organics recyclers, including collectors, processors, end users, and local governments. As a key voice for organics recyclers in the state, the CORC board is committed to supporting the highest and best use of organic materials, which occurs outside of the landfill system where the materials can be processed to provide benefits to soil, water and crop production. As an agricultural state like California, Florida should support industries such as composting that can help to create sustainable, cost effective agricultural production.

CORC is also in alignment with National organizations such as the US Composting Council and the Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA), who filed a joint position statement in 2006 stating that advances in landfill technology *"should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal."*

**As collaborators with these agencies, we support the arguments that have been developed including the following reasons to veto the proposed bill language:**

**Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

**Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.

**Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.

**Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

Your support of a veto on this legislation will show support for sustainable agriculture, small businesses in Florida, and the environment.

Thank you

Michele Young CORC chair, on behalf of the CORC executive board

Michele Young  
Organics Manager  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara Tower 10  
San Jose, California, 95113  
408.975.2519

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

I am writing as a leading advocate for Zero Waste in the United States. I have recently learned that **HB 569 and SB1052** passed your legislature that would repeal the ban on yard waste from landfills. I am joining colleagues in the composting and recycling industries and Zero Waste advocates to urge you to veto these bills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000s of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills. More energy can be conserved from composting these materials and returning them to the soil than can be produced from landfill gas recovery. Landfill gas recovery is also the least efficient way to recover energy from such materials.
- **Will hurt the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The methane that escapes is 72 times more harmful to global climate change over the next 20 years than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. That does not count the missed benefits to the environment from NOT using the compost that would be generated, including improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved stormwater management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops.
- **Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in

landfills, methane collection or not, is NOT recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

- **Undercuts the public trust in recycling.** If this legislation is adopted, once the public finds out they are doing all this work to separate yard debris from garbage and it is all going to the same place, they will be furious. This is a violation of the social contract between government and the people. The public expects that when they are asked to do something important for the environment, it will be meaningful. This will undercut that trust completely, and could undermine all of the state's recycling programs. When the media starts digging into this story, the headlines will not be anything you want your name associated with.

**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned,** despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right.

**Please do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.**

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

*Gary Liss*

Gary Liss & Associates  
4395 Gold Trail Way  
Loomis, CA 95650-8929  
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Honorable Charlie Crist

Governor of the State of Florida

The Capitol

400 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

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Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

Sincerely,

Kay Yanisch

3309 47th Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

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If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Or Cornell Waste Management Institute <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu>

Sincerely,

Jean Bonhotal  
4483 co rte 22  
Lacona, NY 13083

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- Will hurt Florida's small businesses. The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.

- Will not contribute to energy independence. Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.

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Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations. There is even precedent for a governor's veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, "this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management."

I work in composting and recycling for EPA, Region III in Philadelphia and have seen the low recycling rates of States without yard waste bans, also my parents live in Florida.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,

Mike Giuranna

Mike Giuranna, Solid Waste Specialist  
Office of Materials Management, EPA, Region III 1650 Arch Street (3LC40) Phila,  
PA 19103-2029  
ph: 215-814-3298 fax:215-814-3163  
[giuranna.mike@epa.gov](mailto:giuranna.mike@epa.gov)



Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill**

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*[Add information about you and/or your company here. Mention any connections to the Florida economy]*

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If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Michael Gross  
Manager

Honorable Charlie Crist

Governor of the State of Florida

The Capitol

400 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: HB 569 and SB 1052, authorizing the disposal of yard trash at a Class I landfill

Dear Governor Crist,

Please use your power to veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban of allowing yard trimmings into landfills. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and bad for the environment.

The reasons to veto this language are many:

- **Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** The 264 facilities registered in Florida who manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings are at risk of going out of business. Along with this will be a loss of 1000's of jobs. These small businesses are for the most part owned and operated by Florida residents who sell their products to other Florida businesses, keep profits within the state and use the services of other small businesses. The Institute for Local Self Reliance recently documented that composting creates **four** times as many jobs as landfilling the same material.
- **Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument is a convenient smoke screen to obscure the real goal, increased revenues at landfills.
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**Please be aware that of the 23 states that have bans in place on landfilling yard debris, NONE have been overturned**, despite repeated efforts by large waste corporations and Republican legislatures. There is even precedent for a governor’s veto of a ban repeal passing the legislature. That is what Governor Vilsack did in Iowa in 2003, when he stated that without his veto, “this action will be a major step backwards for integrated solid waste management.”

Even though I am not a Florida resident I have connections to Florida both professionally and personally. Professionally, I work for a grant funded non-profit organization that offers professional development workshops for educators in various Earth and Environmental Science topics. We have a partnership with the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) where we advertise our workshops, and usually our highest number of participants from out of state come from Florida. One of our workshops this summer is on Recycling and Composting in the classroom and we highlight the various state legislature in the Southeast that pertains to solid waste management. If this bill passes it would be a shame to have this mark against the state of Florida in regards to solid waste management. Florida has always been a leader in the Southeast in regards to environmental protection and the legislation it has in place, a reversal in this regard would be a tragic mark against the state of Florida. My personal connection to the state of Florida is that I have family that are residents of the state, and my family and I vacation in Florida every year. One of the things we most enjoy in the state of Florida is it's natural beauty and the efforts that the state of Florida takes to protect it.

Sincerely,

Kevin Fischer  
Operations Manager - Pisgah Forest Institute at Brevard College  
One Brevard College Drive  
Brevard, NC 28712  
(828) 884-8229  
[www.PisgahForestInstitute.org](http://www.PisgahForestInstitute.org)



39 Old Elam Avenue  
Valley Park, MO 63088  
Office: 636-861-3344  
Fax: 636-861-5925  
www.stlcompost.com

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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In 1992, I started St. Louis Composting, Inc. in response to Missouri’s yard waste ban. Since then, my company has grown from 2 employees to over 50 employees and 5 locations. St. Louis Composting has processed in excess of 5 million cubic yards of yard waste which has been kept out of landfills and turned into useable products which are sold to consumers.

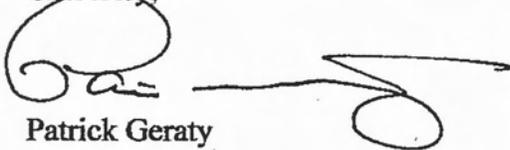
Composting is now a thriving industry in the state of Missouri and is providing badly needed jobs. During these difficult economic times, my company has actually experienced over 10% growth. Not many companies have a similar claim.

If the State of Florida repeals its yard waste ban, I am concerned there will be a domino effect throughout the United States which will decimate an entire industry and cost even more jobs.

Floridians have a proud history of protecting the environment and looking for ways to divert materials away from landfills. The Florida Legislature committed a huge error in passing this legislation, but you can make it right. Do the right thing, Governor—veto this bill.

If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council,  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Patrick Geraty  
President



Tomorrow's Erosion Control, Today.

May 11, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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soil-tek of Mid America  
6 Silver Leaf Court, Suite 100, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367-2131 •  
636.561.3158 • 888.811.8221 • fax 636.561.3159

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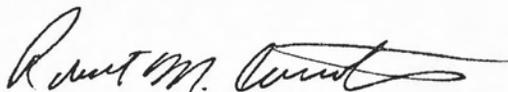
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Sincerely,



Robert M. Carrothers  
President

May 13, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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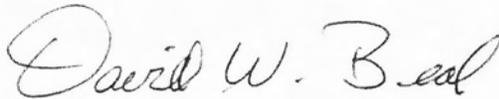
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If you require additional information, please contact the US Composting Council, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

Sincerely,



Dave Beal, President  
Missouri Recycling Association



**UNITING CITIZENS, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT TO  
PROMOTE WASTE REDUCTION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY**





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not necessarily represent those of  
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Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.441.CRRA [2772]  
Fax 916.676-4882  
E-mail: info@crra.com

# California Resource Recovery Association

May 19, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: HB 569 and SB 1052 - Disposal of yard trimmings at a Class I landfills

Dear Governor Crist,

Please veto the recently passed HB 569 and SB 1052, repealing Florida's longstanding ban on landfill disposal of yard trimmings. Overturning this ban is bad for the economy and terrible for the environment.

The California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) is California's statewide association of recycling and material management professionals, including municipal and private recycling program operators, as well as organics recyclers, collectors, processors. CRRA is committed to supporting the highest and best use of organic materials as essential to soil and ground water quality, as well as sustainable crop production.

CRRA is in alignment with the US Composting Council and the Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA) 2006 statement that advances in landfill technology:

*"should be accomplished without encouraging more organics to be placed in landfills, and without reversing hard won and effective programs and regulatory efforts that have raised recycling rates for organic residuals. Energy recovery, in bioreactor or conventional landfills, must be pursued without relaxing recycling initiatives and without improperly creating incentives for more land disposal."*

HB 569 and SB 1052:

**Will hurt Florida's small businesses.** Florida's 264 registered facilities that manufacture compost and mulch from yard trimmings employ 1000 workers, whose jobs these bills will place at risk, along with associated jobs. These small businesses are largely locally owned and operated. The Institute for Local Self Reliance has documented that compost production creates four times as many jobs as landfilling the same material. HB 569 and SB 1052 represent a huge step backwards for Florida's local and green economy.

**Will not contribute to energy independence.** Yard trimmings, due to its high lignin content, decompose slowly and only partially in a landfill environment, contributing an insignificant amount to Florida's energy needs. The energy argument obscures the real goal - increased landfills revenues. Furthermore, the compost that would be produced from yard trimmings reduces the use of energy intensive products including fossil fuel based fertilizers. It also significantly reduces the demand on crop irrigation water.

**Will harm the environment.** Only a fraction of the methane that is generated will be captured by the collection system (estimates vary considerably: the EPA puts the capture rate at 75%, while the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that over the landfill's entire life that rate may be as low as 20%). The fugitive methane is 30 times more harmful to global climate change than the carbon dioxide that would be generated if the yard trash were composted instead of landfilled. Additional benefits to the environment from using the compost produced from yard trimmings includes improved water quality, reduced irrigation needs, healthier plants and improved storm water management. As Florida State researchers have shown, compost's benefits would help improve yields in a number of crops. These critical environmental benefits will be placed at risk by a repeal of the landfill ban on yard trimmings.

**Contradicts your own laws and the US EPA.** Title 29, Chapter 403, section 703 of the Florida Statutes, defines "Recycling" as "any process by which solid waste, or materials that would otherwise become solid waste, are collected, separated, or processed and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products." Burying yard trash in landfills, methane collection or not, is not recycling, because there is no return to use. Directing the DEP to award recycling credit for disposal defeats the purpose of tracking waste reduction and recycling quantities, and is contradictory to the EPA hierarchy of reduce-reuse-recycle.

A veto of this legislation is a vote for small businesses and environmental quality in Florida, and true sustainability.

Sincerely,

*J. Muir*

Julie Muir  
President