**RE: 2018 Farm Bill/Agriculture Improvement Act (AIA)**

**As a member of the US Composting Council and compost advocate in your community, I urge you as a member of the House Committee on Agriculture to support the economic development potential of compost manufacturing in the reconciliation of the 2018 Senate AIA that is before you now.**

 **Our 27-year-old organization represents more than 2,000 individuals and companies dedicated to compost manufacturing, compost utilization and organics recycling.**

**The US Senate included measures in Farm Bill version before you to increase the reduction in wasted food and development of composting and anaerobic digestion.**

**Please integrate the section concerning funding and grants, and support the initiative to fund and carry out pilots by 24 municipal governments in not fewer than 10 states to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost and food waste reduction plans.**

**The demand for compost manufacturing and landfill diversion significantly exceeds the infrastructure to serve it; USCC has projects underway to focus on** state permitting regulations, for compost facilities in zoning ordinances and local solid waste plans as obstacles for entrepreneurs who seek to open or expand compost facilities or compost sales. These pilot studies will provide on-the-ground and timely data for the work needed to provide composting services in the U.S.