



May 17, 2022
House Regulatory Reform Committee

Dear Chairman Hauck and fellow members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee,

The Composting Council of Michigan (CCM) would like to voice our support for House Bills 6056 and 6057, which would allow us to process the unusable organic waste generated from the cultivation of medicinal and recreational marihuana. This waste, which does not contain any of the useful parts of the marihuana plant, is just like any other organic plant material that is discarded after harvest. By composting this material, we would be able to return nutrients to the soil and offer a more environmentally beneficial method of disposal.

To accomplish this, the bills do the following:

- Defines Marihuana Plant Waste as “a root, stalk, leaf, stem, or root ball of a marihuana plant”. The definition specifically excludes hazardous waste, to keep processing chemicals or other harmful materials out of the waste stream. The only parts of the plant affected by this legislation are the organic, non-beneficial parts of the plant.
- Defines registered composting facilities as a “Marihuana Disposer”. This would allow us to pick up and process marihuana plant waste without having to be licensed through the Cannabis Regulatory Agency. Our existing licenses through EGLE would be sufficient.
- Remove the requirement that marihuana plant waste be rendered 50% inert for unlicensed transport. Under current law, even the unusable parts of the plant must be mixed with another medium to be taken off-site. By removing this requirement for marihuana plant waste, we can ensure the waste stream will not be contaminated by other materials.

The inability to effectively compost the plant waste from medical and recreational marihuana was an unintended consequence of the pathway to legalization. To address this, we have been working closely with LARA, EGLE, and the Cannabis Regulatory Agency to develop legislation that works for everyone. The language before you have been vetted by the departments and will work within our licensing systems.

We ask that you vote “yes” on HB 6056 and 6057 and thank you for supporting licensed industries in the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

The Composting Council of Michigan

The Composting Council of Michigan was formed to better implement research, training, public education, composting and compost standards reforms, expansion of compost markets and the enlistment of public support.