



Date: March 25, 2001

To: Members of Michigan House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee

Via email to: Mwingrove@house.mi.gov

From: René V. Wallace, Doers Edge LLC & FoodPLUS Detroit

RE: Support for Part 115 (HB4454-4461)

Good day Honorable State Representatives,

Great change requires great leadership. The proposed Part 115 legislation will create the enabling environment needed in Michigan, and in urban cities like Detroit, to advance toward our goals of creating healthy, sustainable communities through our environmental practices.

As someone new to State legislative policy making, these last four years has been a great learning experience supporting this landmark work. I have had the privilege of working closely with EGLE leaders Liz Browne, Matt Flechter, Aaron Hiday, Elizabeth Garver and Duane Roskoskey to gain an understanding of their experiences and their perspectives on regulation and market development. I have also worked closely with Kerrin O'Brien and fellow members of the Michigan Organics Council in discussing what this legislation means to composters and citizens. In Detroit, I work to build composting capacity through small pilots in residential areas, and I have hosted Part 115 policy briefings for leaders and community members, and regularly give progress updates through the Detroit City Council Green Taskforce. While this proposed legislation speaks most explicitly to regulating larger scale composting, I have found it to be invaluable in facilitating conversations about composting at all scales (particularly community scale) and see it as a framework to guide innovative local policy change.

I look forward to the shift in our state to the mindset and practice of sustainable materials management that this legislation will produce, and for the enabling environment for advancing food waste diversion and composting that it will create.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this legislative work thus far and thank you in advance for staying the course until it becomes law and operationalized.

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