A RESOLUTION

Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of the feasibility of requiring food waste recycling for businesses and individuals based on the Commonwealth's current infrastructure.

WHEREAS, Food waste is defined as a decrease of food in stages of the supply chain intended for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that 30% to 40% of the food supply in the United States is wasted; and

WHEREAS, The amount of food wasted every year is approximately 133 billion pounds, representing roughly 1,249 calories per person, per day; and

WHEREAS, Americans throw away approximately $161 billion in food every year or roughly $1,500 for a family of four, including food at retailers, restaurants and at home; and

WHEREAS, Food waste accounts for approximately 20% of landfill weight at municipal landfills; and
WHEREAS, Methane is released when food breaks down in
landfills, which is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than
carbon dioxide; and
WHEREAS, Food recycling methods like composting or anaerobic
digestion can help in reducing the harmful impacts of food
waste; and
WHEREAS, Composting can turn what would ordinarily be food
waste into mulch for trees and shrubs or mixed in as topsoil,
helping with water retention and providing valuable nutrients
for plant life; and
WHEREAS, Anaerobic digestion, which is the method of
controlling the breakdown of food waste by micro-organisms,
releases a biogas from which methane can be extracted and used
to power engines, run alternative fuel vehicles and supply homes
and businesses through natural gas pipelines; and
WHEREAS, Food waste being repurposed and recycled for other
uses has both positive environmental and economic impacts and
should be studied; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
State Government Commission to conduct a study of the
feasibility of requiring food waste recycling by businesses and
individuals within this Commonwealth given the current
infrastructure; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission provide
recommendations necessary or desirable for ways to improve
access to food waste recycling; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
report of the result of the study and recommendations evaluating
the Commonwealth's infrastructure in regard to access to food
waste recycling and potential improvements that can be made and
1 file the report with the House of Representatives no later than
2 one year after adoption of this resolution.