

## Look, Westley (DNREC)

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Comments on Docket #2025-R-WHS-0016 -- Solid Waste Regulations

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Comments:

Dear DNREC Hearing Officers, It is with urgency and desire for impactful community engagement that I address these comments today: Currently the state of Delaware is quite behind other states in the area of processing food waste. While other states have successful collection and composting programs, there are no large scale food composting facilities in the state of Delaware. However, frankly speaking the goal is not simply to compete with other states but rather to reduce our imprint on the environment. My understanding is that food waste takes up 25% of landfill waste. This food waste produces methane, an extremely potent gas that contributes to global warming on an exponential level compared with CO2. I have been in touch with the leaders of current local small scale composting initiatives in Delaware. The programs are going well but are severely impeded by an industrial permit requirement that is not necessary for small scale operations. Removing this requirement would help these initiatives move forward. It would also encourage more citizens to get involved with composting to learn about the process and eventually help move the state towards large scale collection. Thank you in advance for reading and considering my comments.