



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Climate
Change
Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment and Climate
Change
Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

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CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Dear Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member McKinley:

Thank you for holding a hearing in the Energy and Commerce Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee entitled “No Time to Waste: Solutions for America’s Broken Recycling System.”

My bill, H.R. 8059, *The Recycling and Composting Accountability Act*, is being considered as a part of this hearing today, and I am pleased to provide written testimony in support of the bill.

H.R. 8059 is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would provide us with a baseline of information about our nation’s recycling and composting infrastructure, and where current gaps exist.

The national average recycling rate is currently only 32%, but sadly in my state of Colorado, our recycling rates are even lower: in 2020, our statewide recycling and composting rate was just half that at 15%. While there are some municipalities in my district that are far exceeding those numbers in individual categories, this underscores the need for additional action to improve recycling and composting rates.

Without stronger recycling and composting programs, more waste continues to be added to our landfills, polluting our beautiful lands and oceans.

H.R. 8059 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess our capability to implement a national composting strategy, generate a comprehensive baseline of data on our recycling system, complete an inventory of the number of materials recovery facilities across the country, and report on the end-markets of recyclable materials.

The bill also asks GAO to examine the recycling practices of the federal government and establishes voluntary guidelines in consultation with State, local, and Tribal governments to enhance their recycling and composting efforts.

As evidenced by the low recycling and composting rates prevalent across our nation, we need additional data to best direct and streamline efforts and identify areas where barriers exist to achieving those goals.

This legislation would fill that gap, providing a baseline of data on recycling and composting and assessing our capability to generate a national composting strategy.

I am grateful to Chairman Tom Carper, Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, and Senator John Boozman for their work on this legislation in the Senate, and to Representative Tim Burchett and Representative Bill Foster for co-leading this legislation with me in the House.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of H.R. 8059, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Energy and Commerce Committee on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Neguse", is positioned above the printed name.

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress