As a supporter of the benefits of source separated organics to ensure quality feedstocks for composting and to not increase the diversion of packaging waste to landfills that could effectively be recycled; I want to register my comments in support of meeting the intent of the Washington State's Organics Management laws to divert more materials from landfills and support the State's composting infrastructure. We oppose any revisions to Chapter 173-350 Solid Waste Handling during the Organic Materials Management Rulemaking that impose costly and unprecedented standards on compost facilities while offering no parallel regulatory guardrails for preprocessing operations (aka depackaging facilities).

Source separation is extremely important to protect local solid waste programs. It is crucial for recycling and composting under Washington State laws because it supports waste reduction goals, maintains quality standards for recyclables and compost, protects the environment, and fosters community engagement and education in diversion. By emphasizing and encouraging source separation in its laws and regulatory policies, Washington State can effectively manage its waste streams, conserve resources, and promote environmentally and economically sustainable waste management practices.

We have seen the negative impact on the composting and recycling industries in states such as Maine and Vermont when non-source separated organics collection invited generators (groceries, food distributors, and other large generators) to toss ALL (including previously source separated and composted organics) inedible food waste into dumpsters headed for depackaging. This has forced a lengthy process in the State of Vermont to reaffirm the intent of its source separated organics law, yet many composters never recovered, leaving a deficit of compost for healthy soils in the State.

I am concerned that the "green" State of Washington could face similar impacts on its robust and developed compost industry, and healthy soil policies needing quality compost.

Please work with the State of Washington's composting and recycling industries to ensure that appropriate levels of inbound contamination are fairly set for the composting and depackaging industries; while maintaining the intent to source separate organics for composting and divert packaging from landfills.