



Isaac Bearg  
Vice President  
New Jersey Composting Council  
PO Box 265  
South Orange, NJ 07079

To the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Commission,

I want to thank you for taking the time at your last commission meeting, despite a VERY long meeting, to hear my comments in regards to the Vivaria Ecologics composting facilities. As the NJCC has previously written to you, we want to affirm our continued support for the inclusion in the Warren County Solid Waste Plan.

The New Jersey Composting Council's (NJCC) mission is to advance compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and Organics Recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment in the state of New Jersey. We are also a state chapter of the national United States Composting Council. We believe that New Jersey is falling behind our neighbors in our efforts to divert organics from landfills, missing on the environmental, economic and job growing benefits of such efforts. We can only achieve these gains if there are facilities to do the work. Facilities such as this one.

As I mentioned in my comment the Commission should not allow just ANY facility to be included in the plan. We at the NJCC have called in odor complaints and will do so in the future when facilities are not being run properly. However, we are confident this will not be the case here. Among the factors we would highlight include technology. Covered Aerated Static Pile technology is among the fastest growing organic recycling technologies for its ability to process organic material quickly, in a limited footprint, without odor and runoff issues. This is a proven technology even in densely populated urban settings.

Perhaps more importantly the second factor is people. The project lead and CEO, Christina Piocosta Lahue is a committed composter. She has attended every training and educational opportunity the NJCC has to offer. She understands the commitment to the community that she is making to be a responsible neighbor. Christina is also a highly successful businesswoman and understands that a well maintained site is good for business. She has further shown her commitment to this facility by the team she has surrounded herself with, ensuring that this facility will be designed and installed by premier national experts in the field.

While we understand the concerns of the community we feel they are simply unfounded. We have seen a compost site application on the location of a failed site in Hopewell, NJ. The community was right to have concerns given the poor management of the prior operator. They talked about concerns of truck traffic and attracting birds and odors and the effect on their wells - the same concerns your community is expressing. We testified that this individual, too, was committed to composting and had taken every opportunity to learn about the process. Now,

more than a year on from the approval of the site, they are a respected member of the community and the mayor who has previously shied away from getting involved at all was happy to support renewing the permit. Composting and food waste management can be done responsibly and without nuisance to the community, by the right people with the right technologies.

While there is no perfect site for managing waste, this project is a good site that is using only a portion of the available land with great technology and leadership. We give our highest recommendation for approving this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac Bearg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Isaac Bearg, Vice President  
NJ Composting Council  
Isaac@njcomposting.co  
Cell: 973-477-9724