

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** christa vegas <christavegas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 9:46 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee; Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of H.7212

The Honorable Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair  
House Committee on Corporations  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in support of House bill H.7212, which provides for the operation and duties of natural organic reduction for the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

Dear Chair Solomon, and members of the committee,

Natural organic reduction offers a reverent alternative to burial and cremation in keeping with Rhode Island's strong commitment to combat the climate crisis. Natural organic reduction uses 87% less fossil fuel-generated energy than cremation, without the impacts of toxic embalming chemicals. Land required for traditional burial would be more beneficial as green space and habitat for wildlife. Natural organic reduction provides an opportunity for future generations to more directly experience the cycle of life; to give back to the planet that has nourished their bodies for a lifetime. For some, visiting a loved one in the form of a garden or a tree means more than leaving cut flowers at the foot of a tombstone, or an urn filled with ash. We should all be enabled to express our reverence for life according to our own religious, spiritual and secular persuasions. Natural organic reduction broadens that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Christa Albrecht-Vegas  
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