Dear <State Conservation Official or Regulator>,

I’d like to formally recommend that our <State> Conservation Office adopt NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Soil Carbon Amendment Code 336 in its updates for the upcoming NRCS fiscal year. As a <compost producer, citizen stakeholder, farmer, rancher, etc.>, I’d like to see the US Department of Agriculture incentivize the use of compost as a means of carbon storage and overall soil health.

Carbon sequestration - the long-term storage of carbon - is key in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change. Compost application supplies the organic matter necessary to create a structured and aerobic soil environment, that will enable the sequestration of carbon through photosynthesis, and the recycling of plant biomass in soil organic matter. Compost itself is a source of stable carbon and its resistance to microbial degradation enables its capacity to be sequestered in soil.

The environmental benefits of compost use on agricultural land are expansive. These benefits include:

- Source of beneficial microorganisms to the soil
- Feeds existing soil biology
- Improves soil structure, porosity and bulk density
- Improves soils water holding capacity and infiltration rate
- Enables nutrient cycling in soils
- Supplies a variety of macro and micronutrients
- Improves soils cation exchange capacity and nutrient retention
- Suppresses plant and soilborne disease
- Stabilizes soil pH

The US is experiencing an expansion in its composting infrastructure, and as a result, our country can supply high volumes of compost to the agricultural sector. The environmental benefits of compost use will aid in addressing key agricultural issues such as our country's food security and resilience to extreme weather. Adopting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Soil Carbon Amendment Code 336 in <your state> will enable our state to utilize a critical resource in its efforts to conserve the viability of its agricultural lands.

I hope you'll take my letter into consideration.

Sincerely,

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