

House Resolution

No. 39

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting

April 21, 2014

House Resolution No. 39—Relative to compost awareness week.

1 WHEREAS, Materials, such as yard trimmings, vegetable
2 cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, have
3 all been composted and converted into a beneficial product known
4 as compost; and

5 WHEREAS, Compost is an important soil amendment and is
6 critical to the state’s valuable agricultural industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Returning organic resources to the soil decreases
8 dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, decreases
9 erosion, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and nonpoint source
10 pollution, conserves water, and creates drought-resistant crops;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Composting is an effective form of waste reduction,
13 reuse, and recycling; and since compostable organic materials
14 make up approximately 42 percent of the material going to
15 landfills, composting is becoming one of the primary methods
16 used by communities to reach waste diversion goals; and

17 WHEREAS, Anaerobic digestion is a form of organics
18 management that prepares materials for composting, while
19 capturing methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and uses it to generate
20 electricity and heat or processes it into a ultra-low carbon
21 transportation fuel; and

22 WHEREAS, Composting California’s food waste could cut
23 landfill methane emissions by up to 3 million tons of carbon
24 dioxide per year, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an

1 additional 3.3 million tons, through the use of finished compost
2 in agriculture; and

3 WHEREAS, Communities, through their local governments,
4 highway departments, soil conservation services and extension
5 offices, and public works professionals, can have significant impact
6 on clean water, soil, climate change, and landfill diversion by using
7 compost for public works projects; and

8 WHEREAS, Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure
9 for cities and states that implement composting programs; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Resources Recycling and
11 Recovery has estimated that recovering a significant portion of
12 our organic waste stream could create 14,000 new jobs in the state
13 by 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, the composting councils of the United States,
15 Canada, and the United Kingdom have all declared the first full
16 week of May as the annual International Compost Awareness
17 Week; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
19 week of May 5 to 11, 2014, is hereby designated as Compost
20 Awareness Week; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.