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From State Representative Kelly Cassidy

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Springfield, IL - State Representative Kelly Cassidy has introduced HB4552, which would allow in vessel composting of human remains. Natural organic reduction, also known as human composting, provides a low emission alternative for final disposition by accelerating the conversion of human remains to soil using microbes. With this bill allowing the use of natural organic reduction, people would be able to make an environmentally-sensitive choice as a part of their end-of-life plan while leaving their loved-ones with nutrient-dense soil that can enrich the environment.

"This is another example of working collaboratively with constituents to identify policies in need of change. I am excited to move forward on this idea in continued partnership with my constituent who brought this idea to our attention," said Rep. Kelly Cassidy, lead sponsor of HB4552, "Providing broader options for final disposition of remains both addresses the desire of people to 'color outside the lines' and move away from traditional burial or cremation, but also ensures that people who have spent their lives mindful of their impact on our planet have an option to continue that after death."

More traditional forms of disposition such as cremation and conventional burial practices result in limited land uses, contamination, and significant emissions that contribute to climate change. As such, transitioning away from traditional practices will allow more land to remain in use for non-burial purposes and will reduce use of valuable resources.

"Removing barriers to sustainability is an important goal of the Illinois Environmental Council. This bill will give options to Illinoisans, their families, and local businesses when a loved one passes away. We are excited to work with Rep. Cassidy to advance legislation that will allow human remains to be composted," said Jen Walling, executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council.

Passage of this bill would result in Illinois joining other states (Washington, Colorado, and Oregon) in increasing the options available for natural and sustainable end-of-life options for individuals and their relatives.

"As a composting business owner, I applaud Rep. Cassidy for introducing legislation that will add Illinois to the many other states that permit an end-of-life option that aligns with our other sustainability values. I ask the Illinois General Assembly to pass this legislation this year to bring this option to the state," said **Erlene Howard, Founder of Collective Resource Compost.**

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