



CCM 2012 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE February 22, 2012

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports Senate Bill 89 "*An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program*".

This bill would create a state-wide mattress stewardship program for end-of-life management of mattress disposal in which **mattress producers are responsible for** creating, financing, and managing an environmentally sound program to (1) *minimize public sector involvement* in the management of post-consumer mattresses by negotiating and executing agreements to collect, transport, reuse, renovate, recycle, burn for energy recovery and dispose of post-consumer mattresses, regardless of brand; (2) *provide for the free, convenient and accessible state-wide collection* of post-consumer mattresses that; (3) provide *for producer-financed end-of-life management* for discarded mattresses, including transportation from a number of locations including municipal transfer stations; (4) *provide suitable storage containers* at permitted municipal transfer stations for segregated, discarded mattresses, at no cost to such municipality; and (5) *cover the costs* for the program.

According to an April 2011 survey conducted by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, a very conservative estimate of the current costs to towns and cities for managing the **disposal of post-consumer mattresses in Connecticut exceeds \$1.2 million each year**. Similar to the Paint Stewardship and E-Waste programs preceding it, a properly designed Mattress Stewardship Program would take the financial and administrative burden of end-of-life disposal for these items off the back of local governments. This is a no-cost proposal for the state and could result in significant statewide savings for municipalities.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report this bill.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.

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