

Testimony in Support of SB 89
An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program
Louis J. Spina Jr. Provisional Director of Public Works Department – City of Waterbury, CT
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Representative Roy, Senator Meyer and Members of the Committee, my name is Louis Spina and I am Provisional Director of Public Works for the City of Waterbury. I am here today to testify on behalf of Mayor Neil O'Leary in support of SB 89 an Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program.

The City of Waterbury spends between \$150,000-\$200,000 annually on mattress disposal on top of the per ton tipping fee. This is approximately 6,000-7,000 mattresses and box springs a year. We are in support of this bill because it places the responsibility on the manufacturer of the mattress rather than the taxpayers. We struggle each year to maintain a level of service while keeping mindful of the mill rate.

Over the past 2 years, since the surcharges of \$20-\$30 per mattress/box spring, it has become that much more difficult to maintain services. In addition, since the surcharges have come up we find many more mattresses and box springs illegally dumped. While the City provides this service free of charge to residents, many small hauling companies are looking for ways to save money and often dumping these mattresses illegally. We also believe that residents of surrounding cities and towns and landlords who own property outside of Waterbury are bringing mattresses into the city for free disposal.