



STATEMENT REGARDING
Senate Bill 89: *An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program*
Environment Committee
February 22nd, 2011

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and municipalities. All of these investors share a common interest in the full economic and employment recovery of Connecticut, in a dynamic Capital City, and in the enhanced ability for the Region to compete for jobs, capital, and talent.

Consistent with the enormous fiscal challenges faced by our state, Connecticut's cities and towns are also making difficult decisions in order to balance their budgets and cut spending. In order to remain competitive and attract employment growth, we encourage our local leaders to explore new and creative ways to help reduce spending, and the proposal before you today is one such example. Statewide, 350,000-450,000 mattresses are disposed of annually at a cost of at least \$1.2 million. In Hartford alone, the related estimated cost is approximately \$180,000 each year. Additionally, local disposal fees encourage illegal dumping, which has become a chronic environmental problem.

Typically, some of the primary components of mattresses have actual value as commodities, leading to the development of a trend in green business development for mattress reuse and recycling. As a result, our local officials are focused on attracting new employers to the Capital City to address this problem and create new jobs to effectively and responsibly recycle and reuse formerly dumped or discarded mattresses. By establishing a mattress stewardship program in our state, the proposal before you will provide for post-consumer collection and recycling of the end product while also relieving our municipalities of the related pressure on their budgets.