

Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority

TESTIMONY ON RAISED BILL NO. 89 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority which represents eighteen municipalities served by the CRRRA Mid Connecticut Project supports the intent of Raised Bill No. 89 An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program.

MEMBERS

Avon
Bloomfield
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The proper disposal of mattresses represents a significant cost to municipalities across Connecticut and often to consumers as well. Our Authority municipal members dispose of their solid waste at the CRRRA MidConn waste-to-energy facility. This facility is not designed to process mattresses. If mattresses illegally get into the waste stream they cause costly unnecessary breakdowns. The only current option is for municipalities to send mattresses to bulky waste facilities or pay additional charges for pre-processing at the waste-to-energy facility.

Some communities fund the \$10 to \$45 cost of mattress disposal through their general taxation program. In other towns the charge for disposal at the local municipal transfer station ranges between \$10 and \$20 for disposal of a mattress, double if a box spring is included. All taxpayers fund the cost for disposal of those mattresses that are illegally dumped along our roads, or on municipal property such as open space or parks.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs place the financial responsibility for end of life product management on manufacturers. The State's EPR legislation for E-waste has saved our municipalities and residents thousands of dollars annually and provides a recycling outlet for tons of unwanted electronics. We look forward to the same type of savings, recycling and convenience for residents when the EPR legislation for paint is implemented in the next year.

An EPR program for mattresses will save municipalities and residents money, provide greater convenience for residents, and reduce the growing illegal dumping associated with resident attempts to avoid disposal fees. Just as EPR legislation for electronics and paint have already created economic opportunity and private sector jobs in the state, so too will a mattress EPR program.

The CCSWA supports the passage of EPR legislation that will require manufacturers to finance the disposal and recycling of mattresses. If you have any questions please contact me at 860.693.7847.

Richard J. Barlow, Chairman
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