



# CITY OF HARTFORD

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Hon. Pedro E. Segarra, Mayor  
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To: Jason Bowsza, Environment Committee

From: Marilyn Cruz-Aponte, City of Hartford

Date: February 24, 2012

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit **supplemental testimony** in support of Senate Bill 89, "An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program" **to answer some of the questions that were raised at the hearing on February 22, and to provide some additional clarification where there may have been some confusion.**

**Q: How does the bill regulate international mattress manufacturers?**

A: The definition of "Producer" in Section (a) (15) (B) provides for having the importer take on the status of a Producer if the manufacturer has no US presence. This is similar to how the issue is working with EPR for electronics, where the market has a much larger international component.

**Q: Is there a plant that will be constructed to reuse and recycle mattresses?**

A: Not directly. This bill requires the manufacturers to create a Plan to handle mattresses at end-of-life. There is no requirement for facilities to be built. However, private and not-for-profit companies are making plans to open in Connecticut because of the interest this bill demonstrates in mattresses. The potential for additional used mattress feedstock segregated because of this legislation is spurring private economic growth.

**Q: How can you work with industry to address their objections?**

A: The workgroup that spearheaded this initiative is available to work with legislators, DEEP, and the mattress industry to respond to questions about legislation and move forward on a making this a workable solution for all concerned. Nationally, and in Connecticut, we have been trying to engage industry for well over a year and would still be willing to discuss details and potentially make changes if they are now ready.

**Q: Will the manufacturers be responsible for collecting mattresses or for the costs of collection?**

A: No. In the current municipal system, there are four component charges currently covered by Towns through their taxpayers, or residents through fees. 1) Towns collect curbside in some municipalities, 2) residents drop off mattresses at transfer station in many municipalities, where they, and sometimes the curbside mattresses are aggregated and stored until the final disposition, 3) mattresses are transported to a final destination, and 4) tip fees are charged for disposal. Under this legislation, municipalities would retain responsibility for the first 2 steps, with storage containers potentially provided by the manufacturers, and then manufacturers would pay for steps 3 and 4. This is still a shared responsibility model.

**Q: Do all towns have to participate? Does it cost towns money if they support the law but don't use the program?**

A: Participation for municipalities is voluntary. For any municipality where mattresses are already segregated for separate disposal, there will be only cost savings, and they may be considerable. For towns who currently dispose of mattresses in bulky waste or municipal solid waste, with or without a mattress surcharge added to their tip fee, they may weigh the costs of segregating against the savings in disposal and decide whether to participate now, or in the future. For Hartford, the cost savings of nearly \$200,000 will far exceed any extra costs to segregate. Other towns may do their own evaluation. If there is no cost savings, there is no requirement to participate, since there is no disposal ban in this bill.