



*City of Middletown  
Public Works Department Recycling Division  
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## **Environment Committee Public Hearing Wednesday February 22, 2012**

*Testimony in support of SB 89 AAC Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program  
Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, City of Middletown*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 89 AAC Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program. As a member of the CT Product Stewardship Council the City of Middletown is pleased to support this proposal.

This Mattress Stewardship Program bill will continue to move the State forward in developing more producer responsibility programs which offer stable financing and sound environmental management of waste products. Similar to the State's recent e-waste and paint stewardship laws, this program will allow manufacturers to play a role in developing and financing a sound waste disposal program for their products.

This bill is estimated to save CT municipalities a minimum of \$750,000 AND offer more opportunities to recycle these products. Currently,

- 350,000 – 450,000 mattresses are disposed annually in CT;
- The cost of mattress disposal is hidden in taxes or fees; or in many towns, in both;
- Illegally dumping of mattresses because of these fees is prevalent;
- Mattresses are abundant, cumbersome to handle, expensive to transport and difficult to compact.
- Resources are wasted when burned or buried. Currently no mattresses in Middletown are recycled.

The Mattress Stewardship Program will:

- Save towns and taxpayers money if they choose to participate; the City of Middletown spends thousands of dollars a year on mattress disposal. This does not include mattresses from area institutions. None of these mattresses are recycled. With this proposal, we expect costs to drop to zero and precious resources to be recovered.
- Increase municipal recycling rates which have been stagnant for several years.
- Hopefully decrease illegal dumping issues with mattresses.
- Encourage producer responsibility for manufacturers.
- Create jobs in the State of Ct.

This proposal will move the State forward in achieving creative, innovation solutions to waste management. All stakeholders will play a role to reduce waste, control costs and increase recycling. The Mattress Stewardship Program will save taxpayers money, increase recycling and do it more effectively and economically than it is now being done.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. We hope to have your support for this proposal.

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