



CCM 2012 Testimony

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM ***supports*** Senate Bill 89 "*An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program*".

This bill would create a state-wide mattress stewardship program for end-of-life management of mattress disposal in which **mattress producers are responsible for** creating, financing, and managing an environmentally sound program to (1) ***minimize public sector involvement*** in the management of post-consumer mattresses by negotiating and executing agreements to collect, transport, reuse, renovate, recycle, burn for energy recovery and dispose of post-consumer mattresses, regardless of brand; (2) ***provide for the free, convenient and accessible state-wide collection*** of post-consumer mattresses that; (3) provide ***for producer-financed end-of-life management*** for discarded mattresses, including transportation from a number of locations including municipal transfer stations; (4) ***provide suitable storage containers*** at permitted municipal transfer stations for segregated, discarded mattresses, at no cost to such municipality; and (5) ***cover the costs*** for the program.

According to an April 2011 survey conducted by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, a very conservative estimate of the current costs to towns and cities for managing the **disposal of post-consumer mattresses in Connecticut exceeds \$1.2 million each year**. Similar to the Paint Stewardship and E-Waste programs preceding it, a properly designed Mattress Stewardship Program would take the financial and administrative burden of end-of-life disposal for these items off the back of local governments. This is a no-cost proposal for the state and could result in significant statewide savings for municipalities.

CCM urges the committee to ***favorably report this bill***.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.

