

Environment Committee Public Hearing
Wednesday February 22, 2012

Town of Hamden
Testimony in support of
SB 89 An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 89. As a member of the CT Product Stewardship Council the Town of Hamden 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. Under this bill, the mattress industry would take responsibility for managing their product by establishing a mattress stewardship organization which will administer a collection and recycling program. This program will allow manufacturers to play a role in developing and financing a sound waste disposal program for their products just as State's recent e-waste and paint stewardship laws are accomplishing.

Connecticut Municipalities currently spend over \$1.2 million/year on mattress disposal with the true cost of this disposal being hidden in taxes and fees. This bill is estimated to save Connecticut municipalities a minimum of \$750,000 and offer more opportunities to recycle these products. About 400,000 mattresses are disposed of in Connecticut each year. Illegal dumping of mattresses in Connecticut is a problem because consumers do not want to pay the disposal fee. Resources are wasted when mattresses are burned or buried.

The Mattress Stewardship Program will save towns and taxpayers money if they choose to participate; the Town of Hamden spends over \$30,000/year on residential mattress disposal. None of these mattresses are recycled. With this proposal, we expect costs to drop to zero and precious resources to be recovered. This proposal will also help to increase municipal recycling rates in-line with the State's Solid Waste Management Plan, decrease illegal dumping issues with mattresses, encourage producer responsibility for manufacturers and create jobs in the State of Connecticut.

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.

Mayor Scott D. Jackson and
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