



March 8, 2013

Senator Edward Meyer
Representative Linda Gentile
The Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Environment Committee Hearing on HB 6437

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Adrienne Houël. I am President and CEO of the Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc. founding partner of Park City Green, a unique, non-profit mattress deconstruction and recycling facility located in Bridgeport. I am here to support HB 6437, An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program. I begin my testimony by thanking the committee and its co-chairs for past and present support of legislation that creates a smart regulatory foundation to require mattress recycling in a way that significantly increases job opportunities for CT families while reducing municipal and taxpayers' costs for waste management.

The time is ripe for passage of this bill as it was elaborated by all stakeholders including the International Sleep Products Association, the Product Stewardship Institute, our state departments (DEEP and DECD) and municipalities across the state. Broad-based support of this bill was achieved with the hard work and input of CT Mattress Stewardship Group led by Marilyn Cruz-Aponte representing the Mayor and City of Hartford. Governor Malloy's Modernizing Recycling Working Group, whose membership consists of representatives of all recycling stakeholders, has made mattress stewardship legislation the number 1 priority for the 2013 legislative session. Further, our Bridgeport delegation, led by State Senator Andres Ayala, stands ready to co-sponsor this bill joining dozens of other legislative supporters.

Park City Green was created to provide the infrastructure necessary for mattress recycling. We are a non-profit, 501c3 entity, located in Bridgeport's newly designated Eco-Industrial Park. Our mission is to provide economic development for the Bridgeport region and to create living wage jobs for the region's most vulnerable and hardest to employ citizens by disposing of mattresses in an environmentally sound way. We operate a triple-bottom-line company based on environmental sustainability; social good by training and hiring disadvantaged low-income unemployed residents enabling them to

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become economically self-sufficient; and economic and community development for our distressed city and its struggling neighborhoods. In operation since July 2012, Park City Green has so far employed 7 Bridgeport residents 5 of whom are ex-offenders. And we are on track to fulfilling our objective of creating 25 jobs in three years.

Park City Green has already demonstrated "proof of concept": we have diverse clients including universities, hospitals and clinics, hotels and municipalities. We have found the markets for deconstructed materials such as cotton, metal, foam, toppers and wood. And we have the expertise, equipment and space to deconstruct more than 100,000 mattresses a year. To reach our full potential and to continue to create jobs, we need this product stewardship bill to pass. Furthermore, to facilitate implementation, we are ready to actively participate in pilot projects that would test the practical application of the legislation's provisions. Our operational experience and non-profit status would provide a test facility for municipalities and institutions looking for a better understanding of the process and costs of mattress deconstruction and recycling. To that end, we are open for visits and ready for demonstrations.

This bill, an excellent example of public/private collaboration, will give our state the opportunity to create a national model for product reuse and stewardship. Passage will create jobs and opportunity for Bridgeport's hard-pressed families and communities. Our city has been on the forefront of "green" initiatives and this mattress recycling facility is a key demonstration of how recycling creates jobs for our residents, saves money for our municipality and creates economic development opportunities at the same time. This is a triple-bottom-line enterprise that works. And the mattress bill will make it work better and create the jobs we need faster.

Thank you for your support of HB 6437 and for your support of our burgeoning mattress recycling industry that grows jobs.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Farrar Houël
President/CEO