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Environment Committee
Public Hearing
March 8, 2013

Testimony In Support Of House Bill 6437
AAC A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, and Representative Shaban, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 6437, AN ACT CONCERNING A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Covanta Energy, owner or operator of three of Connecticut's Energy From Waste (sometimes known as waste to energy) facilities, supports the proposal to establish a comprehensive program to address the statewide challenge relating to mattresses.

As a world leader in Energy From Waste, Covanta is a firm believer in the waste hierarchy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover Energy. Connecticut has embraced this philosophy as well, joining the US EPA and European Union, and has all but eliminated the landfilling of municipal solid waste in the state. This has made Connecticut a leader in the nation in terms of sustainable waste management. Covanta's Energy From Waste plants play a key role in this success. Mattresses, however, present a special challenge. Our Energy From Waste plants are not designed to process large items such as mattresses and they can cause operational issues if they are put through our process. We separate the mattresses from the rest of the solid waste and separately dispose them.

More importantly, however, the disposal of mattresses has become a major expense for our cities and towns. The latest estimate of the costs to our cities and towns to dispose of mattresses is over \$1.2 million annually, resources that could be better spent on other municipal services. The passage of this bill will alleviate this pressure on our local budgets.

Covanta does request one small change to the bill as drafted in order to recognize the state's commitment to the solid waste hierarchy. Specifically, in lines 252 to 254, the bill lists both Energy From Waste and landfills as similar methods of disposal. In line with the waste hierarchy, Energy From Waste should be described as diversion or recovery, not disposal. The lines should read:

(4) the weight of mattress materials sent for recovery at Waste-to-energy facilities, or sent for disposal at each of the following: (A) ~~Waste-to-253 energy facilities,~~ (B) landfills, and ~~(C)~~ (B) any other facilities;

Thank you for time and consideration. Covanta urges passage of the bill as amended.