

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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**DATE:** MARCH 8, 2013  
**TO:** CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** MARY GLASSMAN, CHAIRMAN, CRCOG POLICY BOARD  
LYLE D. WRAY, PHD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** RAISED BILL NO. 6437, AN ACT CONCERNING A MATTRESS  
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

For more than 40 years, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has served Hartford and 30 surrounding municipalities. We support Raised Bill 6437, An Act Concerning a Mattress Stewardship Program, which would expand the current extended producer responsibility programs in Connecticut to include mattresses.

The disposal of mattresses is a significant cost to municipalities across Connecticut and often to consumers as well. Some communities pay for mattress disposal using taxpayer funds paying \$10 - \$45 in per unit tip fees. Other local municipal transfer stations in our region charge residents between \$10 and \$20 for dropping off a mattress, double if a box spring is included. Typically the \$10-\$20 fee just covers the municipality's cost of disposal, a cost that is borne by all taxpayers for those mattresses that are illegally dumped along a road or street side.

Our region's solid waste goes to waste-to-energy facilities in the state. Mattresses cause unnecessary breakdowns at these facilities and, therefore, are not wanted in these plants.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs place the financial responsibility for end of life product management on manufacturers. The State's EPR legislation for e-waste has saved our municipalities and residents thousands of dollars annually and provide a recycling outlet for tons of unwanted electronics. We look forward to the same type of savings, recycling and convenience for residents when the EPR legislation for paint is implemented in the next year.

An EPR program for mattresses will save municipalities and residents money, provide greater convenience for residents, and reduce the growing illegal dumping associated with resident attempts to avoid disposal fees. Just as EPR legislation for electronics and paint have already created economic opportunity and private sector jobs in the state, so too will a mattress EPR program.

CRCOG supports this bill and encourages your favorable action.