



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
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John DeStefano, Jr. Testimony of the City of New Haven
Mayor **Before the Environment**

Regarding
HB 6437 AN ACT CONCERNING A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by
Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief of Staff
March 8, 2013

Senator Meyer, Rep. Gentile, members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of *HB 6437 AN ACT CONCERNING a MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM*.

The City of New Haven, through its Office of Sustainability has prioritized increased recycling and diversion from the waste stream and this proposal accomplishes both of those goals. The program would divert mattresses from the waste stream and would lead to an increased in recycling of these materials. The Mattress Stewardship Program, similar to the Paint Stewardship and E-Waste programs, also creates a system that removes the financial and administrative burden from municipalities like New Haven.

An April 2011 survey conducted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection found that the cost to towns for mattress disposal exceeds \$1.2M annually. For communities like New Haven mattress disposal also leads to significant blight. With over fifty percent of our housing units occupied by renters, we see a significant amount of transience in certain areas of the City. Rental cycles are most visible as piles of furniture – most often mattresses are disposed on tree belts. This proposal would create a system to help ameliorate these problems.

The City supports the Mattress Stewardship Program to reduce cost and promote the responsible disposal of mattresses.

Thank you for your consideration.