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March 6, 2013

Environment Committee  
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Meyer, Chairwoman Gentile and members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Byer and I am the Co-Owner of Blue Bell Mattress Co., Inc. (Comfort Solutions by King Koil.) Our company had been making mattresses in CT for over 80 years. We are located in East Windsor where we employ about 225 people.

Since last year, I have been following the Committee's efforts to enact mattress recycling legislation as it will have a profound effect on my business. While I could not support the approach initially taken by the Committee last year, I am pleased to say that we believe a workable solution has been crafted that will promote mattress recycling without harming my business, and without creating a biased, uneven market condition. To that end, I am writing to express my support of the consensus proposed substitute language for HB 6437 that has been developed by the International Sleep Products Association and the CT Mattress Stewardship Group.

The proposed agreement addresses the concerns I had with previous versions of the bill and, most importantly, requires a visible fee to be collected at retail in order to fund the program. This ensures that the program will have a dedicated funding source, lowers costs for businesses and consumers and provides the public with a clear understanding that their mattress will be recycled at the end of its life.

Thank you for your time and interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Byer".

Steve Byer

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