



**Written Testimony of Susan Eastwood of Clean Water Action,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
March 8, 2013**

In Support of HB 6437, An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program

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

Clean Water Action strongly supports HB 6437 An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program. This is an extended producer responsibility bill similar to what Connecticut has already established for paint and e-waste. We support the concept that manufacturers should take responsibility for the safe disposal or recycling of their products at end-of-use and that the cost should not fall on the consumer or the towns.

There are a number of problems associated with the disposal of mattresses and this legislation will address many of them.

- 350,000-450,000 mattresses are disposed of annually in CT at a cost of \$1.2 million to municipalities. This proposal would require the manufacturers provide for end-of-life management and financing.
- Mattresses can be as much as 50% of the weight of bulky waste and is a particular problem in urban areas. This proposal would require the manufacturers provide for end-of-life management and financing. This proposal would require the manufacturers provide for end-of-life management and financing.
- Illegal dumping of mattresses can be a problem. With no fee for disposal through this program, illegal dumping may be reduced.
- Currently mattresses are not recycled so the materials are wasted and taxpayers pay for their destruction. Under his bill mattresses would be recycled and most of the components recovered.
- This program will help Connecticut's economy by creating jobs! Two mattress recyclers plan to move to CT, creating 20-40 new jobs.
- Recycling and more efficient transport of the mattresses will save fuel, reduce greenhouse gases, incinerator emissions, and reclaim materials for reuse.

In conclusion, we feel that this bill is a good next step in the move toward extended producer responsibility for post-consumer solid waste. Thank you.

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