

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



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Environment Committee
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Town of Mansfield
Testimony In Support of
Raised Bill 6437

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 6437. Bill 6437 offers a shared responsibility approach to the end of life management of mattresses, similar to the State's recent electronics and paint stewardship laws. Last year the Mansfield Town Council adopted a resolution in support of the passage of extended producer responsibility legislation for mattresses. The 2012 mattress bill (SB 89) passed the Senate 32 to 4 with 53 co-sponsors but did not get signed into law. This year's bill, HB 6437, has been revised in collaboration with the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) to create a program acceptable to both industry and stewardship proponents. In addition, Governor Malloy's Modernizing Recycling Work Group has made mattress stewardship legislation a number one priority for the 2013 Session.

The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a mattress producer responsibility resolution in June 2012, recognizing the problem of mattress disposal and the opportunities for job creation from mattress recycling. Although Mansfield is not a large municipality, mattresses pose handling issues for transfer station operators regardless of community size. With two mattress recyclers now located in our state, the Town of Mansfield explored the viability of recycling its mattresses. However, the cost of recycling them was prohibitive in comparison to the current cost of out-of-state landfilling. The passage of HB 6437 will enable Mansfield to recycle its mattresses and support Connecticut's recycling industry, ensuring the reuse of materials that would otherwise be landfilled. The Mattress Stewardship Program will also eliminate the municipal financial burden of disposing mattresses, a significant cost to our urban communities.

We commend you for the language of HB 6437 and support its passage into law.

Virginia Walton
Mansfield Recycling Coordinator