

Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority

DATE: March 8, 2013

TO: Chairmen and Members of the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee

FROM: Jeffrey K. Bridges, Town Manager, Town of Wethersfield and Chair, Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority; and
Members of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority

RE: Support for RB 6437 "An Act Concerning a Mattress Stewardship Program"

MEMBERS

Avon
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Cromwell
East Granby
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Manchester
Simsbury
South Windsor
Suffield
Wethersfield
Windsor Locks

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.

The CCSWA represents the municipalities of Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, Cromwell, East Granby, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, Wethersfield, and Windsor Locks and supports the passage of RB 6437 (AAC a Mattress Stewardship Program). We ask the Environment Committee to support this legislation as well.