

## HB No. 6437 - An Act Concerning a Mattress Stewardship Program

(Please note: We ask you to enter our written testimony into the public record. Our schedule prohibits us from being in attendance at the hearing on March 8, 2013.)

HB 6437 will cause a logical treatment of disposed mattresses. As of now, hundreds of mattresses are just thrown out, often slung into our woodlands and tossed out on our roadsides and abandoned among our apartment buildings. In the urban centers, the mattresses are just flung into alleyways and vacant lots, or just out the back windows of apartments. These discarded mattresses are terrible hazards. Frequently they are infested with lice, bed bugs, molds and illness-causing bacteria. Broken mattresses are full of protruding, sharp wires and rotten and splintered boards. They are an attractive nuisance in that children often play on them (unofficial "trampolines" and fortresses). This threat must be removed. Heavens knows how many children have returned to their families, carrying newly-acquired infections, diseases and parasites.

At this time, our towns and cities must pick up all the expense of collection, treatment and disposal of these disgusting eyesores. Because the mattresses are both a blight and a health hazard, communities feel it to be an absolute imperative to remove them and process them for disposal. The enactment and enforcement of HB 6437 will cut significantly into this necessary expense. The bill comes at a time of hard times, it is true, when it is very difficult for towns and cities to pay for the disposal processes. All across the state, municipal officials will applaud the actions and reduced expenses that will be instituted after the bill is enacted.

We have recently conferred with our home town Rocky Hill officials to ascertain their perspectives and judgments concerning HB 6437. Both the Rocky Hill Town Manager and the Rocky Hill Director of Recycling are very enthusiastic about the bill, and they hope for its expedited passage. In addition, they expressed the thought that, at some future date, the innovative disposal procedure outlined in HB 6437 might be later expanded to include other "cushiony" items of furniture (such as couch cushions and overstuffed chairs) that will not fit into most towns' shredding machines. The officials were excited that this "first step" may actually come into being.

We urge the members of the House Environment Committee to put their stamp of approval on this very worthy legislation. We look forward to the day when the disposal of discarded mattresses becomes efficient, expedient and cost effective for cities and towns. Lets do everything we can to quickly remove from our environment these serious health threats to our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

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