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Testimony of Christopher Hudgins  
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Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Planning and Development  
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Good morning Chairwoman Osten, Chairman Miller and members of the Committee. My name is Chris Hudgins and I serve as the Vice President of Government Relations and Policy for the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA). For 100 years, ISPA has served as the voice of the mattress industry. Today, we represent nearly 700 companies including members in East Windsor and Hartford. We wish to express our opposition to House Bill 5600 (HB 5600).

In 2013, ISPA and the mattress industry worked with Connecticut legislators to pass the nation's first mattress recycling law. As a result of the law, the industry created the non-profit Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) to administer the program. The program has been a remarkable success and today has already recycled almost 100,000 mattresses in the state. We are concerned that HB 5600 will disrupt this success.

To fund the mattress recycling program, a fee is collected on each mattress and box spring sold. That fee is currently the lowest among states that have such a law at \$9.00. Comparatively, the fee in California and Rhode Island is \$11.00 and \$10.00 respectively. The \$9.00 fee is directly calculated based on the actual costs of running the program. HB 5600 puts this fee in jeopardy.

HB 5600 seeks to require MRC to pay cities that host recycling facilities used by the program. MRC itself does not recycle mattress and contracts with recyclers to process mattresses on behalf of the program. Therefore, our ability to pick and choose where a recycling site is located is non-existent. Yet, HB 5600 singles out MRC and will mandate nearly \$50,000 in additional costs to the program. These costs will cause the \$9.00 fee to be raised for Connecticut consumers without providing them any additional benefit.

HB 5600 will also hamper the recyclers themselves. Already struggling in the face of collapsing of recycling markets, recyclers could face reductions in compensation if MRC is forced to assume this cost before the fee can be raised or if requests to raise the fee are denied.

In summary, HB 5600 will raise costs for all Connecticut consumers and threaten a successful recycling program solely to benefit two individual cities. For these reasons, we must oppose HB 5600.