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**HRRRA Testimony in Favor of RB 6437  
AAC A Mattress Stewardship Program  
March 8, 2013**

Rep. Gentile, Sen. Meyer, Sen. Chapin, Rep. Shaban and Members of the Environment Committee:

The disposal of mattresses poses a significant cost to municipalities across Connecticut and often a cost and inconvenience to consumers as well. 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 the Bridgeport waste-to-energy facility. Mattresses are cumbersome to handle and cause unnecessary breakdowns at these facilities.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs place shared responsibility for end of life product management on manufacturers as well as municipalities. The State's EPR legislation for e-waste has saved our municipalities and residents thousands of dollars annually and provided a recycling outlet for more than 450 tons of unwanted electronics in our region alone in the past year. We look forward to the same type of savings, recycling and convenience for residents when the EPR legislation for paint is implemented later this year. An EPR program for mattresses not only would save municipalities and residents money, but also would provide greater convenience for residents, and hopefully would result in less littering.

And, just as EPR legislation for electronics and paint have already created economic opportunity and private sector jobs in the state, so too would a mattress EPR program. Two mattress recycling businesses have already located in the state in anticipation of passage of this law.

The Governor's Recycling Working Group recommended fostering economic development and job creation by promoting product stewardship principles to ensure shared responsibility for products throughout their lifecycle. Supporting mattress stewardship legislation was one of five items on the Working Group's short term actionable items list.

The HRRRA, representing the municipalities of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman, supports the passage of EPR legislation for mattresses that requires manufacturers to share the costs of the disposal and recycling of mattresses. We ask the Environment Committee to consider and support the Consensus Proposed Substitute Bill that has the support of both mattress manufacturers, municipalities across Connecticut and environmental groups. Thank you.

Cheryl D. Reedy, HRRRA Director