



*City of Middletown Public Works Department
Recycling Division
245 Dekoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457
860-344-3526 * www.middletownct.gov*

Environment Committee Public Hearing
Friday, March 8, 2013

Testimony in support of
SB 6437 An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program.

Dear Senator Meyers, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 6437 An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program. As a member of the CT Product Stewardship Council, the City of Middletown is pleased to support this bill.

The Mattress Stewardship Program bill will continue to move the State forward in developing more producer responsibility programs which offer stable financing and sound environmental management of waste products. It is similar to the State's recent e-waste and paint stewardship laws, which are both successful Connecticut programs, and bring jobs to the State while increasing recycling rates and opportunities.

HB 6437 is a great example of all the different stakeholders coming together to create a workable program. Connecticut has been very successful in implementing model product stewardship laws that work for both industry and stewardship proponents. This Mattress Stewardship Program bill has included input and received support from the manufacturers of sleep products, municipalities and environmental advocates.

The City of Middletown is currently working as a Zero Waste Community, which means we are working to recycle and reduce as much as we can. The principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources instead of waste, conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling; turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash, promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable and

discouraging products and materials that can only become trash after their use. Zero Waste initiatives view waste as opportunities and valuable resources. Product Stewardship is a large part of Zero Waste programs because it is a method to creating jobs and economically recycling more materials.

Currently the city's mattresses go to the Lisbon incinerator and are burned with other municipal solid waste. Between transportation and disposal it currently costs the City approximately \$15,000 annually to dispose these mattresses.

Passage of this mattress stewardship bill would help all municipalities to recycle mattresses at a lower cost. It would save municipalities money and increase the recycling rates. The State's recycling rate has been stagnant for many years. This would be an important step forward, at no cost to government, to move towards our State Recycling Goal of 58% by 2024.

It is important that we continue to look at our waste generation and disposal in different ways. Business as usual is not going to work. Product stewardship proposals supported by both industry and government are a positive step forward to improving our solid waste management systems.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 860-344-3526 or kim.orourke@middletownct.gov.

Kim O'Rourke
Middletown Recycling Coordinator