



March 8, 2013

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Senator Edward Meyer  
Representative Linda Gentile  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Environment Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Meyer and Chairman Gentile:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee about how Connecticut can save money, create recycling jobs, and enhance its environment by passing **House Bill 6437, An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program.**

I am the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (PSI), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products. Founded in 2000, PSI brings together key stakeholders with varying interests to develop product end-of-life solutions in a collaborative manner, with a focus on having manufacturers assume primary financial and managerial responsibility for those solutions. With a membership base of 47 state governments and over 200 local governments, as well as partnerships with more than 95 companies, organizations, universities, and non-U.S. governments, PSI advances both voluntary programs and legislation to promote industry-led product stewardship initiatives.

For the past three years, the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) has worked with Connecticut state and local government officials, businesses, and others to raise awareness about the problems with mattress disposal and the significant financial, economic, and environmental benefits that will result from increased mattress recycling.

Connecticut municipalities spend an estimated \$1.3 million on mattress disposal, competing with other critical municipal services, such as firefighters, police, and teachers. Passing HB 6437 will provide local governments with desperately needed funding, since the cost of mattress disposal under the bill will be paid for by mattress consumers instead of by taxpayers.

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Recycling these mattresses will also create up to ten times the number of jobs as disposing of them. Two mattress recycling facilities, in Bloomfield and Bridgeport, have already been established in anticipation of an increase in mattresses available for their recycling operations. These businesses have initially hired about 30 employees. With the passage of HB 6437, their feedstock will increase, allowing them to expand operations.

Up to 95 percent of mattress components – steel, cotton, and foam – are recyclable, which diverts valuable materials from becoming waste. In addition, recycling keeps mattresses out of landfills and incinerators, where they pose significant operational challenges owing to their bulky mass and the metal box springs that get caught in equipment.

There is overwhelming support for this mattress stewardship bill in Connecticut. In fact, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy's Modernizing Recycling Work Group has made mattress stewardship legislation a number one priority for the 2013 session. The City of Hartford, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment, and other local governments deserve a great deal of credit for their perseverance in clarifying the benefits of this law for state residents and businesses. The International Sleep Products Association also deserves credit for working cooperatively with these agencies to develop a viable bill.

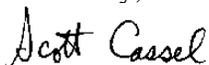
But the support for mattress stewardship extends well beyond Connecticut. In June 2012, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a mattress producer responsibility resolution, which recognizes the problem of mattress disposal as a national issue and promotes opportunities for job creation from mattress recycling. In addition, multiple state and local governments across the U.S. are currently working with our organization to solve the same problem that Connecticut hopes to address by passing HB 6437. With passage of this bill, Connecticut will become a national leader, and HB 6437 will become a model for other states.

There is significant interest in this type of legislation because it reduces government's role by giving management control to manufacturers. Also, as the benefits of producer responsibility laws become more widely understood, more companies recognize how regulation can actually be good for business. By creating a level playing field and greater regulatory certainty, forward-thinking businesses have developed a competitive advantage.

HB 6437 is fully aligned with three similar producer responsibility laws already passed in Connecticut – on electronics, paint, and mercury thermostats. Nationally, over 70 such laws have passed in 32 states that require producers to take post-consumer financial and management responsibility for their products. PSI has played a role in the development and/or passage of many of these laws.

Let me again express PSI's appreciation to the Committee for the opportunity to support this important economic and environmental bill.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Officer/Founder