



BRING

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BRINGrecycling.org

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February 3, 2020

Attn: Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and Labor
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Dear Chairwoman Taylor and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer BRING Recycling's support for Senate Bill 1564. BRING has helped our community develop new and effective solutions to waste and pollution for more than 45 years. An effective mattress stewardship program, paid for by those that profit from mattress sales, is critical to protecting the environmental quality Oregonians are justly proud of. We believe that SB 1564 will provide for an effective stewardship program.

SB 1564 establishes a statewide product stewardship system for the collection and environmentally-sound management of mattresses. The bill requires manufacturers to develop a stewardship organization that will take responsibility for financing and implementing the program. It is expected to create new jobs at facilities set up to recycle mattresses; return their component parts (including metal, foam, and wood) to industries that can use them to create new products; divert waste from landfills; and create safer working conditions for employees at landfills and other waste management facilities, where mattresses are difficult to manage.

The mattress recycling program will be financed by manufacturers through an assessment fee collected at the point of sale on all mattresses sold in the state. Collected funds will be sent to a stewardship organization charged with implementing the program. The program will describe how the stewardship organization will manage mattresses in an environmentally-sound manner, advertise collection opportunities to the general public, and meet the collection convenience standards established under the legislation. The convenience standard will ensure both urban and rural areas of the state are adequately served.

Each day in the U.S. more than 50,000 mattresses are discarded. Much of this bulky, cumbersome waste ends up in the nation's landfills and imposes significant costs on local governments for its management. Less than five percent of mattresses are recycled annually, despite the fact that up to 80 percent of mattress components are recyclable. Reusing and recycling, rather than landfilling unwanted mattresses, reduces waste, creates jobs, conserves natural resources, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. BRING, along with dozens of supporters, urge you to support the passage of SB 1564.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stein
Executive Director