

3 February 2020

Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Committee:

Multnomah County asks for your support of Senate Bill 1564, a thoughtful approach to keep waste from the landfill, increase recycling rates, and create jobs here in Oregon.

Since the adoption of the bottle bill, Oregon has been a recycling leader. Oregonians throughout the state value their ability to safely dispose of potentially hazardous materials such as paint and electronics and seek out every opportunity to properly recycle and compost household items. Mattresses, despite the fact that the constituent parts are ripe for recycling, are not easily recycled and as result are sent to the landfill or worse yet blight neighborhood streets and roadways. SB 1564 would fix these issues.

According to a recent report by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, over 15,000 tons of mattresses are disposed of each year. These materials are difficult to handle, take up significant landfill space and processing can damage equipment at solid waste facilities. SB 1564 would create a recycling system for this waste stream.

SB 1564 -- in addition to environmental benefits -- has the potential to create new jobs for Oregonians at facilities set up to recycle mattresses. These training and employment opportunities could be especially beneficial for individuals facing barriers to employment such as those with a history of homelessness or prior

involvement in the criminal justice system. St. Vincent DePaul Society of Lane County has pioneered this recycling approach in Oregon, creating jobs for underserved populations and keeping thousands of mattresses out of landfills.

It is time to extend this product stewardship ethos to this most pedestrian of household items. After years of worthy service, mattresses deserve a second life creating jobs and new materials. I urge you to pass SB 1564 and further secure Oregon's legacy as a pioneer of product stewardship.

Sincerely,



John Wasiutynski