



Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Phone: 503-842-3403

TTY Oregon Relay Service

Bill Baertlein, Chair

Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair

David Yamamoto, Commissioner

February 12, 2020

Re: Senate Bill 1564: Product Stewardship Program for Mattresses

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the legislative initiative for a product stewardship or extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for mattresses.

Even though up to 85 percent of a typical mattress is recyclable, there is currently no convenient way for most people to recycle their old mattresses. Most mattresses therefore end up in landfills, where their bulk and relative flexibility make them difficult to handle. Disposing of old mattresses is an expensive and burdensome procedure for typical residents.

EPR systems require manufacturers to take responsibility for their products at the end of their lives, or when they become waste, and are consistent with the cradle-to-grave, and sometimes even the cradle-to-cradle concepts. Our local recycling programs have been successful, but we have only been able to maintain these successes and this level of service to the community thanks in part to EPR programs, such as the Oregon E-Cycles and the paint stewardship program. Without such programs, the increase in costs due to increased quantities would have forced us to cut back on services, which would result in a decrease of materials being properly disposed.

Senate Bill 1564 (SB1564) offers an outline for an EPR system that fits squarely within the principles of good product stewardship. Strong requirements for transparency and accountability, as well as the inclusion of service to the underserved rural populations will ensure the success for a product stewardship program, and result in a decrease in the number of illegally dumped mattresses and a significant increase in recycling.

We urge the legislature to pass a product stewardship program for mattresses bill, based on the principles of extended producer responsibility found in SB1564. This legislation will enable Oregonians throughout the State to dispose of their mattresses in a safe, secure, and convenient manner. Funding by the producers of those products as envisioned by this legislation will result in a fiscally responsible solution to multiple problems, as outlined above.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

Bill Baertlein, Chair

absent

Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair

David Yamamoto, Commissioner