

**Testimony to Senate Labor & Business Committee**

**February 13, 2020**

**Michael Hanna**

**Business Owner: Mattress Lot & Stumptown Mattress, Portland, Oregon**

**My name is Michael Hanna – co-owner with my wife Mary Ruth Hanna of a single location mattress retailer in Portland. Our companies are Mattress Lot LLC and Stumptown Mattress LLC. Both located in NE Portland.**

**On behalf of our team – we would like to add our full support for a statewide mattress recycling program. We are not members of any mattress trade groups and we only speak for our business and our customers,**

**We've been voluntarily recycling 100 percent of the mattresses we remove from our customer's homes since we started our business 10 years ago. This costs us a little more but it's the right thing to do and our customers love it. We've received Gold Level Sustainability Certification from the City of Portland in large part because of our recycling program.**

**In 2019 we recycled 65 tons of mattress components at ECR in Portland. We also transferred approximately 20 tons of mattresses to Community Warehouse for use by needy families.**

**As mentioned, we support a mandatory mattress recycling program in Oregon. We believe that this program can be effectively run by the Mattress Recycling Council as we've seen in other states. We would just add three items for you to consider as you finalize this legislation:**

- 1) Grant DEQ the highest possible level of enforcement in collecting these fees from online mattress sellers. Industry estimates suggest there are over 150 online mattress sellers in the U.S.**

Many are found on Amazon. And they have about 20 percent of all sales.

- 2) Waive the recycling fees for non-profit and government agencies who purchase mattresses for homeless, indigent and disabled people.
- 3) Do a deeper dive into the potential costs and fees for this program. We've heard about potential fees of between \$10 and \$20 per mattress unit. This number feels very high when considering the real costs for mattress recycling. For example – our shop spent \$7100 at ECR in 2019 to recycle 65 tons of mattress components. Under this proposal at \$10 per unit our customers would be paying approximately \$35,000 per year or more – just from one medium size shop. That's a large discrepancy between our actual recycling costs and the amount which may be collected from our customers. It does not really add up.

Ultimately Oregon consumers will pay this fee. We just want to be sure these dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. Again – we fully support this program but urge you, DEQ and the ultimate product stewardship program managers to examine the costs to consumers.

Thank you, Senators, for considering our thoughts.