



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Joe Berney
Jay Bozievich
Heather Buch
Pat Farr
Laurie Trieger

DATE: January 27, 2021
TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
RE: SB 570, relating to mattresses

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

Lane County wholeheartedly supports the product stewardship statewide mattress recycling program that would be established by SB 570. An industry developed landfill diversion framework for mattresses would remove a problematic material from the disposal stream. It would result in a new feedstock of used materials which potentially will be incorporated into new manufacturing efforts based in Oregon.

Under ORS Chapter 459, Lane County is responsible for the overall management of solid waste disposal and recycling within the Lane County “wasteshed”. That chapter also mandates that we attain and maintain a certain recycling rate. We operate a total of 15 transfer stations across the County and one regional landfill. Lane County has fostered the development of a number of waste based businesses, one such business is the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and they currently operate a mattress recycling facility. Should SB 570 become law, we would expect their business to expand significantly.

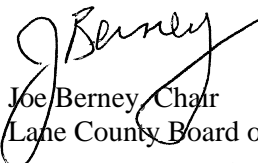
Our Short Mountain landfill’s capacity is based on the amount of materials deposited into it, and the level of compaction of the trash we are able to accomplish through the utilization of heavy compacting equipment that squashes the trash through the course of collection, transfer, and finally within the landfill. Mattresses are inherently designed to resist squashing. They can create pockets of oxygen within the fill, raising the potential for deep within the fill fires that are exceedingly challenging to extinguish. Our landfill operators would applaud the elimination of mattresses from our landfill.

In addition mattresses are often illegally dumped along Lane County roads, or in the forested regions of our county. They are also often deposited alongside dumpsters at multi-family dwellings and become an additional burden for the solid waste collectors which operate throughout Lane County.

SB 570 aligns with other extended producer responsibility frameworks that are operational within Oregon. We know these work, as we’ve participated in the development and implementation of both the electronics product stewardship framework and the paint product stewardship framework.

We applaud Senator Manning for making this bill a priority and urge the Committee to support his work.

Sincerely,


Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners