



April 4, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for SB 276, Mattress Product Stewardship Program**

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 276, which would establish a sustainably financed program in Oregon to refurbish and recycle used mattresses. The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) has been working closely with key government and industry stakeholders to enhance the bill to achieve a strong consensus across interest groups, which will guarantee a sustainable program for years to come. The Oregon legislature and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality already have experience passing and implementing programs for leftover paint and used electronics, which are established on the same principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR) that is the basis for SB 276.

SB 276 will improve collection convenience, increase the number of mattresses collected, refurbished or recycled, create jobs (including for those with barriers to employment), and significantly reduce the financial burden on local governments, whose scarce local funds compete with other important municipal services, such as hiring teachers, firefighters, and police officers.

California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have reaped the benefits of their mattress EPR laws, which were passed in 2013 as a result of PSI's facilitation of a basic model EPR bill with input from government and industry stakeholders. Since 2013, these three programs have collected more than three million mattresses from hundreds of cities, towns, solid waste facilities, landfills, and other entities such as retailers, hotels, and universities.

In the first year of its program, Connecticut:

- recycled 63.5 percent of the state's discarded mattresses, **an increase from only 8.7 percent recycled in the prior year;**
- recycled 2800 tons of steel, foam, and other materials;
- saved 1.7 million cubic feet of landfill space; and
- saved greenhouse gas emissions comparable to annual emissions from 875 passenger vehicles.

**Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. | 29 Stanhope Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116**  
**tel. 617.236.4855 | [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us) | [@productsteward](https://twitter.com/productsteward)**  
**PSI is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

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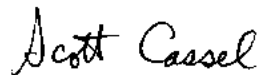
Nationally in the U.S., fewer than five percent of mattresses are recycled annually despite the fact that up to 90 percent of mattress components can be recycled and used to make steel, carpet padding, animal bedding, and mulch. Much of this bulky waste ends up in landfills or is illegally dumped on curbsides, imposing significant management costs on local governments and taxpayers. EPR programs generally provide a continuous flow of high quality material to mattress renovators, recyclers, and manufacturing operations, allowing long-term investments in local recycling and manufacturing facilities that use recycled mattress components as a feedstock for new product manufacturing.

PSI is a national organization committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management. With members from 47 state environmental agencies and hundreds of local governments, as well as 120 corporate, academic, non-U.S. government, and organizational partners, we work to promote product stewardship initiatives across North America.

We look forward to continuing to work with the International Sleep Products Association, the Mattress Recycling Council, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Metro, and St. Vincent de Paul to strengthen the bill and improve its potential for success.

Thank you for your consideration and strong leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Cassel  
Chief Executive Officer / Founder

Cc: Sen. James Manning