



February 12, 2020

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

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

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1564, the mattress stewardship bill.

Environmentally Conscious Recycling is a family-owned material recovery facility operating in NE Portland since 1986. It has been our mission to divert as much material from landfills as possible. As leaders in the recycling industry, we continually look for new opportunities and markets for recovered materials. In recent years, one area of focus has been mattresses. Approximately 85% of mattresses are recyclable: the foam, wood, and steel springs are all recoverable materials. Once separated, the individual materials are collected, sorted, and sent to manufacturers who make them into new products.

At ECR, we are committed to innovation and creating new concepts for the waste industry. Our efforts led to the development of the Bearclaw Spring Extractor, a machine designed and patented by our team to safely increase the speed and efficiency of mattress recycling. Bearclaw units are built at our facility in NE Portland, sold and shipped to other recycling facilities across North America.

Mattress recycling helps Oregon business by providing valuable commodities to industries throughout the state. If passed, this law would see the hundreds of thousands of mattresses that are needlessly discarded in Oregon each year diverted from the waste stream to the commodities market. Mattress recycling helps Oregon jobs, creating jobs for companies that make recycling equipment, jobs for facilities that process recycled materials, and trucking jobs to transport commodities.

I urge you to pass this legislation to help Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

Vern Brown

Vice President

Environmentally Conscious Recycling, Inc.