

**Testimony of Scott Klag, Senior Solid Waste Planner  
In Support of Senate Bill 570  
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment  
January 28, 2021**



Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area, with major responsibilities for managing the region's solid waste and providing opportunities for recycling and waste reduction. Metro serves a population of nearly 1.7 million, providing services and educational resources that protect the environment and reduce the volume and toxicity of the solid waste stream.

SB 1564 establishes a statewide product stewardship system for the collection and environmentally sound management of discarded mattresses. The bill requires manufacturers to establish a stewardship organization to develop, finance and implement the program. The stewardship organization must submit a plan to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality describing how it will meet the requirements in the legislation. Those requirements include coordinating with existing recycling programs and non-profit mattress recyclers and meeting a convenience standard establishing permanent free drop off collection sites across the state.

The legislation builds on Oregon's experience in establishing successful product stewardship programs for leftover paint (PaintCare) and discarded electronics (Oregon E-cycles). Those programs provide responsible and convenient recycling opportunities for their products. SB 570 will provide Oregonians with a similar program for discarded mattresses.

We estimate that the Portland metropolitan area sends about 250,000 mattresses to landfills each year, with the rest of the state accounting for a similar number. Metro owns and operates two solid waste transfer stations and is very familiar with the difficulty of processing mattresses as garbage. They can pose a safety hazard to solid waste workers, they damage equipment and they are difficult to compact and place in our long haul waste transfer trailers.

A stewardship program for mattresses will conserve resources and create jobs. Once disassembled, up to 85 percent of a typical mattress is recyclable. Materials such as metal, foam, cotton and wood can be used to make new products. Disassembling mattresses can provide permanent employment and training opportunities for populations that face significant barriers to employment, including a history of incarceration or homelessness.

Metro believes SB 570 will benefit all Oregonians. We urge you to move it forward.