

Submitter: Anna Kurnizki  
On Behalf Of: Community Warehouse  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB1576

My name is Anna and I am the Executive Director at Community Warehouse. Community Warehouse is the only nonprofit furniture bank serving the greater Portland metro area. Our mission is to redistribute essential household items to neighbors in need. More than 200 nonprofit and government agencies as well as churches, schools, and health clinics rely on Community Warehouse to provide furniture for their clients. We serve 40 households per week, and the #1 most requested item is a bed.

I am in support of Senate Bill 1576. As a leader of one of the only organizations in Oregon that redistributes used mattresses & box springs, I was glad to hear about the collaboration that led to this bill: manufacturers working with the government to reduce the environmental impact of mattresses.

I am also asking our elected officials and our mattress manufacturers not to overlook reuse as a critical component of this process.

Community Warehouse needs 90 mattresses per week to serve our clients, 80% of whom are families with children. For refugees and immigrants, people transitioning out of incarceration or homelessness or the foster care system, beds are one of the most important items to furnish their home. In order to meet this need, we rely on our community to donate good, usable mattresses. We need donations from individuals, companies, and manufacturers to fill the gap.

We all know there are too many mattresses and box springs going into landfills. With this bill, there will be many more going into recycling programs, which is a huge win for Oregon. AND, diverting mattresses for reuse is a priority that cannot be overlooked. If we have a family sleeping on the floor because they fled a domestic violence situation, and we are sending quality mattresses to be recycled instead of going back into the community where they're needed, there's a gap in that system.

We at Community Warehouse look forward to working with the manufacturers and legislators on implementation of this bill, so we can protect and conserve natural resources, provide better services to our community, and provide safe, comfortable places to sleep for our neighbors who need beds.

Thank you.