

**Nancy J. Meyer  
Chair  
Prince George's County  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
c/o Kevin Roy Serrona  
3500 Brown Station Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair

March 4, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Korman and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (PGCSWAC) which was established "to provide community input, guidance and advice to the County Executive and County Council on matters relating to solid waste management in the County". The powers and duties of the PGCSWAC include providing review, recommendations, and impacts of various plans, reports, operations, budgets and impacts of County actions related to solid waste management and resource recovery. We also seek and support input from citizens, business and industries throughout the County.

PGCSWAC's powers and duties includes recommending local and state legislation necessary to accomplish effective solid waste management. The PGCSWAC is made up of concerned local citizens, advocates, and professionals in fields relating to solid waste management, resource recovery and environmental stewardship.

Our concern today is the critical necessity of passing and **implementing House Bill 1355, “Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment”** bill which would create a program to recycle, reuse, and effectively divert mattresses from our landfills and incinerators.

PGCSWAC supports HB1355 in order to address the proliferation of discarded mattresses filling our waste disposal facilities. Many are illegally discarded and dumped in our communities. Mattresses are large and bulky take up valuable space in landfills and tend to capture methane in their large air spaces as they and materials around them decompose.

In Prince George’s County, we are spending precious public funds to build more landfill capacity. Taking mattresses out of the waste stream would extend the life of the facility and preserve valuable materials. More than 75 percent of a mattresses can be recycled when they are broken down into the constituent components. Since the process of reclaiming materials is labor intensive, new jobs and opportunities are created.

Programs operating in other states demonstrate the viability and the environmental benefits of mattress recycling and reuse. Successful programs already exist in Connecticut (since 2015), California (2016), Rhode Island (2016) and Oregon (to begin in 2024). These programs have collectively recycled more than 12 million mattresses since their inception, saving 11.9 million cubic yards of landfill space and recovering more than 450 million pounds of material for reuse. The rates of recycling in these states are from 60 percent to almost 77 percent.

These programs have REDUCED the responsibilities of local government and the related financial and operational burden for disposal, conserved landfill space, reduced incineration, and created new jobs.

This bill supports one of the recommendations of *Maryland’s 2014 Zero Waste Plan* to establish extended producer responsibility programs for mattresses and other difficult to manage materials. This program in Maryland would potentially divert 70 – 85 percent of mattresses from our waste disposal system, conserve resources,

save public funds and help create another opportunity structure for a circular, reuse economy in Maryland. We request your support of HB 1355.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy J. Meyer

CC: Honorable Eric Olson, Councilmember, District 3  
Prince George's County Council  
Kenneth Battle, Committee Chair  
Transport, infrastructure, Energy and Environment  
Prince George's County Council  
Marilyn E. Naumann, Associate Director  
Resource Recovery Division, Dept. of Environment  
Barbara Sollner-Webb, Vice-Chair,  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Na'ilah Dawkins, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Charles L. Renninger, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
David C. Brosch, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Mouhaman S. Kola, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
William L. Walmsley, Jr, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission

