



March 4, 2024

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: HB1355 Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment

I'm Kevin Daly, President of TurboHaul, in support of HB1355.

According to figures provided by the Mattress Recycling Council, the State of Maryland discards over 370,000 mattress per year.

To put that number into perspective, it is enough volume in mattresses to fill FedEx field...to the top. Or lay that number of mattresses end-to-end and you could walk on a very springy road all the way to Boston, Massachusetts.

These are sobering calculations when considering the environmental impact mattress can have on our beautiful state. However, I'm very pleased to let you know that Maryland is recycling mattresses!

My company, TurboHaul, currently operates in Baltimore the largest mattress recycling facility in the Mid-Atlantic region. We have been successfully recycling mattresses for over five years. During that time, we have recycled over 200,000 mattresses and box-springs, and diverted approximately 10,000,000 pounds from the waste stream. In 2023, we expanded into a new 18,000 square foot facility to accommodate the mattress recycling needs of a growing number of Maryland counties and universities that we service.

At our facility, mattresses are cut open and broken down into their various components. Polyurethane foam is baled for use in carpet padding. Steel springs are processed for scrap metal. Wood waste separated that can be used for mulch. Felt pads for re-use as protective blankets and absorbent pads. Natural cotton for composting. Coconut fiber for sediment control applications.

As you can imagine, mattress recycling is a very difficult process, requiring well trained and compensated employees, large amounts of warehouse space and expensive machinery. TurboHaul has invested significantly to support Maryland in its mattress recycling efforts.

However, for mattress recycling to have continued viability in the Maryland, it is critical that recyclers and end markets can count on a stable and adequate supply of mattresses for processing and materials for recycling.

That is what this bill can provide. I'd like to thank Delegate Hill for her determined leadership on this bill, and for all others who have joined in sponsorship.

By creating a robust mattress recycling industry in the state, the bill will greatly increase mandated diversion rates, considerably increase landfill life, reduce waste processing costs, protect the environment, and perhaps most importantly create jobs suitable for disadvantaged individuals to build a real career with living wages, great benefits, and the opportunity for advancement.

I lend my full support and expertise to the furtherance of this bill and look forward to working together with other stakeholders towards a successful mattress recycling program for the great State of Maryland.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Daly', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kevin Daly, President
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ATTACHMENT

Cost Considerations for Mattress Recycling

Many times, when analyzing the cost of recycling mattresses, a comparison is drawn between the recycling fees versus the current cost per ton of landfilling or incinerating the material. Unfortunately, this sort of comparison does not begin to account for the many ancillary costs associated with the dumping or burning of mattresses. These include:

- Increased collection and transportation costs due to bulky mattresses preventing the maximization of payloads.
- An inordinate amount of cell space consumed by mattresses in landfills due to their inability to compact at the same ratio as other waste. Garbage compacts to 1600 pounds per cubic yard. Mattresses compact to only 360 pounds per cubic yard.
- The destabilization of the landfill edges and sides due to the lack of compaction and 'float' of mattresses causing collapse hazards for landfill personnel and leakage of gas.
- The creation of air pockets within the landfill that disrupt the proper flow and capture of methane gas, and create fire hazards.
- The leaching of toxic, fire retardant chemicals from the mattresses into ground water.
- The severe damage to trucks and heavy equipment at the landfill caused by wire wrap – a phenomena that occurs when mattress springs get caught up in the drive shaft, transaxle, rear differential and/or hubs as mattresses are driven over for dumping and compaction.

The damage caused to specialized landfill equipment by mattresses can easily run into the 10s of thousands of dollars and cost 10s of thousands more in downtime. The issue has become so prevalent in the industry that last year Republic Services, the 2nd largest waste company in the nation, decided to impose fees for mattresses entering their landfills of \$250 per unit. Almost all privately owned transfer stations and landfills in the Mid-Atlantic region have followed suit and imposed significant surcharges on mattresses brought to their facilities.

Private enterprise has learned what we must. That tipping fees don't tell the full story. And that the TRUE cost of landfilling mattresses far outweighs the cost of diverting and recycling.

Further to this point, we are currently employed by many privately owned waste facilities in the region who pay us far more than their regular tipping fee to properly recycle their mattresses. They know that recycling actually saves them money, and it's the right thing to do.

