

From: Caroline Eader, [Zero Waste for Zero Loss](#)
To: Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Date: February 24, 2021 (Hearing date of 2/26/21)
Re: FAVORABLE - HB 1146, "Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattresses and Box Springs."

Maryland [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13](#), "Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland" adopts a sustainable materials management policy with an emphasis on environmentally and economically sustainable methods to reuse resources and to "empower new partnerships across State and local agencies."¹ In support of this goal, I respectfully request a FAVORABLE recommendation in support of HB 1146 for mattress recycling programs that create jobs for the people in society who, through gainful employment, can get a second-chance or a hand-up in society.

Mattresses deplete landfill space, create flammable air-pockets, contribute to air pollution when incinerated, and can contribute to roadside litter when illegally dumped. In other parts of the U.S. programs exist to recycle mattresses and boxsprings. For example, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Oregon operates three mattress recycling facilities in Oregon and California,² and Spring Back Mattress Recycling operates facilities in Colorado, Washington, Utah, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Such facilities are able to recycle 90%+ of each mattress and box spring received, and give new life to old materials that would otherwise occupy valuable landfill space.³

Spring Back Mattress Recycling provides employees with important work experience and partners with non-profits that can support workers as they "spring back" into society as they recycle millions of pounds of material every year.⁴

For these reasons I give my support to [HB 1046](#) for mattress recycling and job creation.

Sincerely,

Caroline Eader
Master of Energy Regulation and Law, Juris Doctor

[Zero Waste for Zero Loss](#)
Clean Energy & Zero Waste Policy Support and Implementation

1 Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland, 2017, <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx>
2 St. <https://www.svdp.us/what-we-do/recycling-and-manufacturing/mattress-recycling/>
3 Spring Back Mattress Recycling webpage, <https://springbackrecycling.com/>
4 Spring Back Mattress Recycling webpage, <https://springbackrecycling.com/learn-work/>