



St. Vincent de Paul

Society of Lane County, Inc.

Office (541) 687-5820 • Fax (541) 683-9423
Stores Donation (541) 345-0595
Social Services (541) 689-6747

2890 Chad Drive Eugene, OR 97408
PO Box 24608 Eugene, OR 97402
Email askme@svdp.us
Visit us at www.svdp.us

Dear Legislators:

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County (SVDP) is in full support of this legislation to create a product stewardship bill for mattress recycling in Oregon. SVDP created the first commercially viable mattress operation in California in 2000, and before similar legislation was enacted in California in 2015, had recycled over 1.5 million mattresses just from the San Francisco Bay area. With a mattress recycling operation in place in Eugene, and three such operations in California, SVDP processes around 400,000 mattresses per year.

This bill hits many of the triple bottom line goals.

- 1). It is sustainable. The fee charged supports a permanent solution to dumping used mattresses because the fees are permanently being replenished.
- 2). It is environmentally friendly: Mattresses make up approximately 10% of the Oregon waste stream. With this eliminated there is significant diminution in land fill tipping.
- 3). Many mattresses can either be reused “as is” or rebuilt. With these mattresses returning to use in their present form, significant carbon footprint is diminished.
- 4). Approximately 75% of a mattress, once deconstructed, can be recycled into other products, creating jobs and products.
- 5). The jobs created by this new industry are ideal for disadvantaged or disabled populations to find employment that is both long term and provides transferable job skills.

Finally, in my opinion, it is the right thing to do. Oregon has long been seen as both an environmental and social innovator. Supporting this bill simply adds to that reputation, while giving us a new tool for a sustainable future.

Terry McDonald
Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.