



March 5, 2025

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: HB 858 Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment

Favorable

I'm Kevin Daly, President of TurboHaul mattress recycling. I am writing in support of HB 858.

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

To put that number into perspective, it is enough volume in mattresses to fill the Washington Commander's stadium...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, operates the largest mattress recycling facility in the Mid-Atlantic out of Baltimore, MD. We have been successfully recycling mattresses for over six years.

During that time, we have recycled over 300,000 mattresses and box-springs, resulting in the diversion of approximately 15,000,000 pounds of waste. A recent analysis by the Mattress Recycling Council shows that each mattress recycled saves 500 gallons of water, conserves enough energy to power a house for three days, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to driving 60 fewer miles.

In 2023, TurboHaul expanded its operations into a new, 18,000 square foot facility. This year we are seeking an additional 50,000 square feet to accommodate the burgeoning mattress recycling needs in the State of Maryland.

At our facility, mattresses are cut open and broken down into their various components. Polyurethane foam is baled for use in carpet padding, insulation, sound proofing, and furniture manufacturing. Steel springs are processed for scrap metal. Wood waste is separated that can be used for mulch, animal bedding, and soil amendments. Shoddy felt pads are reclaimed for use as protective blankets and industrial absorbent pads. And natural cotton and coconut fiber recovered for composting.

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 and to provide good jobs, paying well above the minimum wage, with full benefits.

For mattress recycling to succeed in Maryland, it is critical that we ensure a stable and adequate supply of mattresses for recycling markets; and that cities and counties trailblazing the way do not carry an unfair burden of the cost.

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 Maryland, this bill will support diversion, increased landfill life, reduced costs, a healthy environment, and well-paying jobs.

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,



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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.

