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**National Waste
& Recycling Association**SM

House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Economic Matters Committee
March 5, 2025
House Bill 858 – *Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA-MD) represents Maryland's private solid waste industry, including hauling and collection companies, recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal sites. NWRA-MD and its members strongly support House Bill 858, establishing the Mattress Stewardship Program, a statewide initiative to reduce mattress waste in landfills and incinerators through recycling and responsible disposal.

NWRA broadly supports stewardship or extended producer responsibility models for hard-to-manage items in the waste stream. Mattresses are particularly challenging to dispose of properly, taking up excessive landfill space and posing fire and groundwater contamination risks. Their bulky size and difficulty in transport also make them one of the most commonly dumped roadside waste items, straining local governments and waste management systems.

To fund the program, mattress manufacturers will be required to implement a stewardship assessment fee on mattress sales. This fee will cover the costs of collection, transportation, and recycling. Consumers will receive educational materials on recycling options, and local governments will receive technical and financial assistance to help establish mattress collection sites. The Maryland Department of the Environment, in collaboration with the Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board, will oversee the program, ensuring compliance, effectiveness, and annual reporting from manufacturers.

House Bill 858 continues Maryland's commitment to expanding recycling programs and promoting sustainable materials management. By recycling mattresses, valuable materials like steel, foam, and cotton can be reused, reducing the need for new raw materials. Additionally, diverting mattresses from landfills and incinerators will bring long-term environmental benefits. We strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 858.

For more information:

Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

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