



February 24, 2026

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environmental Committee

Re: SB 0603 Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment

Favorable

As President of TurboHaul Mattress Recycling, a local business in Baltimore, Maryland, I am writing in support of SB 0603.

TurboHaul currently employs over forty (40) Marylanders in the collection and recycling of mattresses and boxsprings. Every day we recycle approximately 600 mattresses and boxsprings at our Baltimore, MD facility. Over the last seven years our company has recycled over 400,000 mattresses and box-springs, resulting in the diversion of approximately 18,000,000 pounds of waste. These numbers are large, yet they are a small fraction of the number of mattresses that need to be recycled in Maryland, and the number of well-paying jobs that could be created as a result.

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 overflowing every year. Or lay that number of mattresses end-to-end and you could walk on a very springy road all the way to Boston, Massachusetts.

Creating a state-wide, mattress recycling program that aims to recycle these 370,000 mattresses every year will create hundreds of livable-wage jobs in collection, transportation, equipment operating, processing, and management. For mattress recycling to succeed in Maryland, it is critical that we ensure a stable and adequate supply of mattresses for recycling processors and markets; and that the cities and counties trailblazing the way in Maryland do not continue to carry an unfair burden of the cost.

By creating a robust mattress recycling industry in Maryland, this bill will support diversion, increase landfill life, reduce costs to Maryland municipalities and cities, contribute to equitable environmental health, and create significant, well-paying jobs.

I'd like to thank Senator Washington for sponsoring this bill and for all others who have joined in support. 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 stewardship program for the great State of Maryland.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KD', 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.

