

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Support for S 603 Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment**

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of the Committee:

The International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), represents mattress manufacturers and suppliers of components and services to the mattress industry. The mattress industry is a \$10 Billion industry that employs over 25,000 people throughout the United States. ISPA supports SB 603, which would establish an industry-led mattress recycling program in Maryland.

ISPA has long supported mattress recycling. As the primary association representing the mattress industry in the U.S., ISPA assists our members in improving the environmental sustainability of their operations and products. To further this goal, ISPA created the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) to operate mattress recycling programs in states that adopt mattress recycling program laws. MRC currently operates in California, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In its 10 years of operation, MRC has successfully recycled over 17 million mattresses and boxsprings and now processes over 2 million mattresses annually.

Based on MRC's experience operating these successful programs, ISPA would like to create a similar mattress recycling program in Maryland. Legislation is necessary for these programs to establish a level playing field for all mattress producers and retailers. SB 603 also provides the sustainable financing mechanism and state oversight needed from the Maryland Department of the Environment (DOE) for mattress manufacturers and retailers to institute a statewide mattress recycling program.

In a nutshell, SB 603 requires the mattress industry to develop and run the program, subject to state oversight and reporting. A program plan would be submitted to DOE outlining the components of the program, including collection sites, transportation and recycling services, education and outreach, and program administration, including a budget and mattress stewardship assessment. Once approved by DOE, the program is funded by the stewardship assessment at the point-of-sale, which is remitted directly to MRC. MRC uses that funding

to contract with third parties in the state, to collect, transport, and recycle discarded mattresses. It is also used to fund education and outreach to producers, retailers, and large volume users, such as academic institutions, hospitals, hotels, and the military, as well as everyday consumers.

SB 603 would enable Maryland to benefit from a proven, efficient, and effective statewide mattress recycling program. Mattresses are bulky waste, occupying large amounts of precious landfill space, and are often illegally dumped, creating hazards and eyesores. The program provides no cost and accessible state-wide opportunities for residents and businesses to discard mattresses for recycling. It may cost a municipality or consumer upwards of \$50 to \$75 to discard a mattress in the state today, many of which go to the landfill. By contrast, a nominal fee collected when a consumer buys a new mattress funds MRC's programs and pays for the recycling of all mattresses, both legacy mattresses already in use and ones that are purchased after the program has started. Establishing a successful mattress recycling program in Maryland can save municipalities and residents a significant amount of money and save landfill space for less bulky items. Lastly, the program helps support new jobs in the state in both the transport and recycling sectors. This legislation is currently pending in Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Maryland, and there is interest in the District of Columbia. Thus, a regional approach would provide further efficiency and economies of scale.

ISPA and the mattress industry want to establish an efficient, proven mattress recycling program in Maryland. We look forward to working with the Committee, our producers and retailers, cities and counties, and the DOE, among other stakeholders, to implement a workable and sustainable solution. Therefore, we urge your support of SB 603 to make this happen.

In advance, thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely



Alison Keane, Esq., CAE, IOM  
President