

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Committee on Environment and Transportation
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 984 Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

Dear Chairman Korman 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 HB 984, 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. HB 984 also provides the sustainable financing mechanism and state oversight needed from the Maryland Department of Environment (DEP) for mattress manufacturers and retailers to institute a statewide mattress recycling program.

In a nutshell, HB 984 requires the mattress industry to develop and run the program, subject to state oversight and reporting. A program plan would be submitted to DEP 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 DEP, the program is funded by the stewardship assessment at the point-of-sale that 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 the academic institutions, hospitals, hotels, and the military as well as everyday consumers.

HB 984 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 for further efficiency and economies of scale.

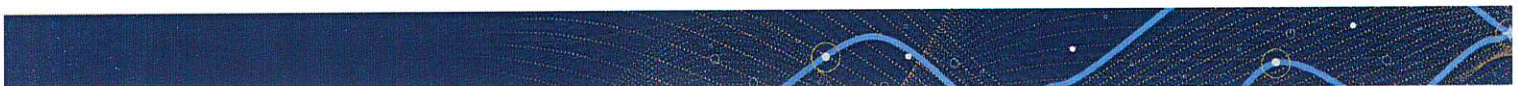
ISPA and the mattress industry want to establish an efficient, proven mattress recycling program in Maryland. We look forward to working with the Committee, our producers and retailers, cities and counties, and the DEP, among other stakeholders, to implement a workable and sustainable solution. Therefore, we urge your support of HB 984 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 International Sleep Products Association



MRC Develops and Implements Innovative Mattress Recycling Solutions

MATTRESS RECYCLING

MRC works with legislators to create an economically sensible program for recycling used mattresses that is practical, harnesses existing infrastructure, minimizes cost to governments and consumers and provides significant environmental benefits.



WHY RECYCLE?

- REDUCES GREENHOUSE GASES**
- REDUCES ILLEGALLY DUMPED MATTRESSES**
- creates RECYCLING JOBS**

Creates **NEW PRODUCTS** from old **steel, foam, & wood**

- SAVES ENERGY**
- SAVES LANDFILL SPACE**
- SAVES WATER**

MRC solves a solid waste challenge by diverting bulky mattresses from landfills, providing recycling solutions for consumers, and saving municipalities millions of dollars annually.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs in those states that have enacted mattress recycling laws.

- The program is currently running in California, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Oregon.
- In the U.S., MRC estimates 15-20 million mattresses are discarded every year, or an average of 50,000 per day, and 75% of that mattress is recyclable.
- Since MRC's 2015 launch, more than 17 million mattresses have been recycled in its state programs.

Mattress Recycling Saves Money and Creates Jobs!

- MRC collaborates with solid waste companies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, retailers and small and minority-owned businesses to establish collection sites.
- MRC contracts with third parties to transport mattresses from these locations to recycling facilities and with recyclers to dismantle and recycle the mattress components.
- The program saves millions of cubic yards of landfill space, diverts millions of pounds of mattress materials, reduces costs and curbs illegal mattress dumping.

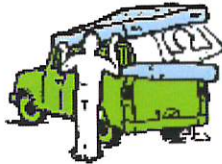
what to do with an old mattress

3 3 EASY OPTIONS



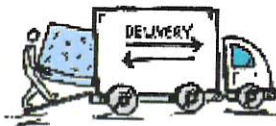
1 Collection Site Drop Off

Drop your old mattress off at your town's participating Bye Bye Mattress® collection site.



2 Recycler Drop Off

Drop your old mattress off at a participating Bye Bye Mattress® recycler.



3 Retailers Take It

Ask your retailer. They may be able to take back your old mattress when your new one is delivered.

MRC programs facilitate recycling networks that process 2 million discarded mattresses annually.

MRC drives innovation by funding research and development projects to enhance circularity of mattress materials.

MRC provides no-cost collection networks statewide for both residential and commercial volumes of discarded mattresses.

Your State Can Recycle Mattresses Too!

- Enabling legislation allows MRC to operate in the state with oversight and enforcement by the state's environmental agency.
- The program is not funded through state or taxpayer dollars, but is funded through a fee on sales of new and renovated mattresses in the state.
- This fee, collected at the point of retail sale provides a level playing field for all mattress producers and retailers; allows producers to fund the program together as competitors; pays for all program costs; and educates the consumer on mattress recycling opportunities.

Let's save our cities, counties and consumers money, while creating jobs and conserving valuable resources – let's pass the Mattress Recycling bill!

For more information, contact ISPA Government Affairs:
Alison Keane, akeane@sleepproducts.org

MattressRecyclingCouncil.org

*Brought to you by the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA).
ISPA is the Association that represents mattress producers in the U.S.*

SleepProducts.org | info@SleepProducts.org

**Nearly
16.8 million
cubic yards**
*of landfill
space saved*

**More than
650 million
pounds**
*diverted
from landfills*