

{Date}

To {Senator or Representative [NAME]}:

On behalf of the {town/city of xxxxxxxx or organization}, I am reaching out to respectfully request that you consider co-sponsoring the upcoming legislative bill establishing a mattress recycling study commission. The bill will be filed by Senator Eileen Donoghue in September and be highlighted by an exciting mattress recycling demonstration at the State House on September 28th, 10:30 AM. The demonstration is open to all, so I encourage you to attend and to be recognized as a proactive co-sponsor of the bill.

Mattress disposal and diversion is a significant burden on your constituents and on the municipal administrators across the Commonwealth because:

- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) estimates that roughly 600,000 mattresses are discarded annually, but **less than 5% of these are getting recycled!**
- Mattresses are bulky so present a management and storage headache for your DPW staff.
- Mattresses take up excessive space at landfills and barely decompose, which is especially problematic with **in-state landfill capacity dwindling.**
- **Discarding mattresses at the landfill is costly;** citizens in {town/city of xxxxxxxx} pay \${fee to dispose of a mattress} per mattress, compared to the statewide average of \$17 to instead recycle the mattress.

By increasing mattress recycling in the Commonwealth, you would also help us all enjoy many benefits associated with mattress recycling, including:

- Cost savings for municipalities. In CT, where mattress recycling is subsidized by the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the mattress manufacturers association, **mattress recycling has saved municipalities an estimated \$1.6 million annually.**
- Recovering valuable materials. Mattresses can be largely recycled into steel, foam, and fiber.
- Stimulating in-state jobs. The United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) Lowell, the nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to assisting challenged youth in Lowell, creates jobs for youth re-entering society through its mattress recycling program. The Cascade Alliance, another social enterprise created by St. Vincent de Paul, has calculated that **for every 10,000 tons of mattresses recycled, 40 to 50 additional jobs are created.**

The bill does not request any financial appropriation or establish any direct policies or regulations. Instead it simply establishes a study commission to further explore the burden of mattress disposal and help determine the best method for the State to drive mattress recycling. In addition to examining expansion of existing programs, such as pilot programs sponsored by MassDEP through grants, the commission will be tasked with researching how other states fund mattress recycling.

To kick off this push, at the demonstration on September 28th, UTEC will be bringing members of its youth team to the State House to demonstrate live how a mattress is dismantled! I urge you to be a part of the exciting event and to join Senator Donoghue as a co-sponsor on the bill

Please contact Edward Hsieh, Executive Director of **MASSRECYCLE**, the only 501c3 statewide nonprofit dedicated to increasing waste reduction, diversion and recycling, at director@massrecycle.org or 617-338-0244, to preemptively commit to co-sponsoring the bill and to RSVP for the September 28th event.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

{Name}

{Title, Organization}