



Date: February 28, 2018
To: Maryland House Environment Sub-Committee
Maryland House Economic Matters Committee
Re: HB 850 - Solid Waste Management and Recycling – Mattresses and Box Springs

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We are writing to share our general support for the spirit of HB 850 - Solid Waste Management and Recycling – Mattresses and Box Springs, however, we have reservations regarding several aspects of the proposed legislation.

1. We are very concerned this bill creates an unfunded mandate which will draw resources away from other recycling programs of equal or greater value to the preservation of our environment.
2. The requirement to update each county's 10-year plan adds an additional resource burden which would be better addressed on the normal schedule for such updates.
3. There is an insufficient number of facilities available to recycle the additional materials generated by enactment of this legislation thereby creating a great likelihood that counties and municipalities will have no choice but to landfill the materials anyway.

We agree that discarded mattresses and box springs represent an environmental hazard and recycling opportunity, but believe a more comprehensive, appropriately funded solution is needed. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the sponsors of the bill to explore ways this legislation might be modified to better achieve its goal.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Peter Houstle at phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, 301-725-2508 or MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time-effective and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

Kemrey Kidd, MRN President