

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Tran
Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Subcommittee
General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for HB 86 Mattress Stewardship Program

Dear Chairwoman Tran and Members of the Subcommittee:

The International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, 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 86, which would establish an industry-led mattress recycling program in Virginia.

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 has collaborated with Delegate Laufer to create a similar mattress recycling program in Virginia. Legislation is necessary for these programs to establish a level playing field for all mattress producers and retailers. HB 86 also provides the sustainable financing mechanism and state oversight needed from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for mattress manufacturers and retailers to institute a statewide mattress recycling program.

In a nutshell, HB 86 requires the mattress industry to develop and run the program, subject to state oversight and reporting. A program plan would be submitted to DEQ 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 DEQ, 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, large volume users, such as academic institutions, hospitals, hotels, and the military, as well as everyday consumers.

HB 86 would enable Virginia 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 Virginia 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 Maryland as well, with the District of Columbia also interested. 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 Virginia, a place we call home. We look forward to working with the Committee, our producers and retailers, cities and counties, and the Department of Environmental Quality, among other stakeholders, to implement a workable and sustainable solution. Therefore, we urge your support of HB 86 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