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Senator Bill Ingebrgtsen

Re: SF4062 – Discarded Mattress Stewardship Program

Dear Senator Ingebrgtsen,

I am writing to express concern regarding the mattress legislation currently in Senate Environmental Bill SF4062. From Pope/Douglas' perspective, this bill is premature and should be removed for four reasons:

1. There is no guarantee in the language that the full cost of recycling will be covered. We already experience this with the electronics recycling program and this will be another underfunded program that will increase our costs.
2. We have had no input on the design of the program. The conditions in the states that do have programs are vastly different than Pope and Douglas counties.

While I was working at a previous job as the Environmental Education/Outreach Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Reservation, I was in an early planning committee to what ended up becoming the award winning mattress recycling program at Goodwill-Duluth and again, when I was a Recycling specialist for Hennepin County through Second Chance Recycling – **all prior to joining Pope/Douglas Solid Waste**. These experiences have helped me identify GOOD sustainable programs as well as those that were well-intentioned, but weren't fully thought through.

3. The program in California, on which this program is based, is not recycling a high percentage of mattresses even after being in operation for many years. This does not provide any confidence for an effective program in rural Minnesota.
4. Presumably the program would eliminate ditch dumping but experience in California proves otherwise. At least 4% of the mattresses processed in California are dumped on the street. The California program pays for this but the **Minnesota program would leave the problem and cost entirely to counties and cities.**

Mattresses are certainly a problem and eventually should be addressed with a program. We also know that programs implemented without adequate input from all stakeholders imbed problems that consequently can cause struggles for years (electronics). We ask that you put this on hold and prevent an ineffective program from being implemented. A future program needs to articulate how it will work before the legislation is enacted otherwise Greater MN could be left in the dust.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Nathan Reinbold
Environmental Coordinator
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