

March 12, 2021

Senator Carrie Ruud
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
3233 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for S.F. 1767

Dear Chair Ruud,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties formed to address waste management and energy issues. We support initiatives that build a sustainable, circular economy to keep products and materials in use. We support producer-led product stewardship efforts to reduce lifecycle impacts of products and manage materials more sustainably.

The Partnership thanks Senator Howe for introducing S.F. 1767 and you, Chair Ruud, for hearing it. We strongly support the concept of product stewardship for mattresses. S.F. 1767 represents an important step in creating a producer-led product stewardship system to recycle mattresses. This bill seeks to form a mattress collection network that provides several benefits.

- Provides feedstock to manufacture new products out of mattress components that would otherwise be landfilled.
- Reduces operational challenges in waste processing facilities.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions through recycling.
- Supports jobs and economic growth.

We support these goals and see this bill as a framework to build a product stewardship approach that achieves high recycling rates for mattresses, fully addresses the cost to local government for collection and management, and solves logistical challenges.

We support including the following criteria in the bill to create a more robust mattress stewardship effort in Minnesota:

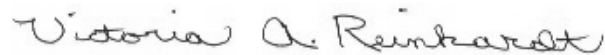
- Clarify that local governments will not face costs to participate.
- Establish minimum recycling goals, based on the experience of other states with similar programs, rather than an open-ended preference for recycling to the extent it is “economically feasible.”
- Reduce the minimum mattress count that a covered entity must accumulate in order to participate.

RE: Support for S.F. 1767

- Include local government in the program design and operations.
- Consider mattress renovation and reuse as preferred management strategies under the program.
- Clarify in Subd. 2 (4) that “municipalities” includes all units of local government, such as defining the term per MSS 466.01, subd 1., as it applies to incurring no cost to host storage containers provided under the program.

The Partnership looks forward to working with the bill author and others to achieve passage of a bill that reduces the life cycle impacts of mattresses and the burdens faced by local government and Minnesota residents in dealing with discarded mattresses.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

C. Matthew Elfritz, Committee Administrator
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County