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October 23, 2012

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**Mayors from Across the U.S. Declare Support
for Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses**

U.S. Conference of Mayors passes resolution developed jointly by the Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. and the Mayor of Hartford, Conn.

BOSTON, Mass.—A consortium of mayors from cities across the U.S., including [Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra](#), have publicly declared their support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for mattresses, according to the [Product Stewardship Institute, Inc.](#) (PSI), a national nonprofit dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products.

EPR is a form of regulated product stewardship, which holds manufacturers responsible for the post-consumer management of their products. EPR aims to shift the financial and managerial burden of end-of-life management away from the public sector and encourages manufacturers to manage disposal of their products in a less wasteful, more environmentally sound, manner. In a recently passed resolution that PSI and Mayor Segarra co-drafted, the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) (USCM) endorses state and federal EPR legislation for mattresses as an effective means of reducing the costs of mattress disposal for municipalities, creating local recycling jobs, and promoting other recycling opportunities that this untapped waste stream offers.

The USCM passed a resolution in support of the principles of EPR in 2010, but this most recent resolution represents its first endorsement of product-specific EPR legislation. The resolution, passed in the summer of 2012, also endorses the new product stewardship and extended producer responsibility [principles and definitions](#) developed jointly by PSI, the Product Policy Institute, and the California Product Stewardship Council.

“I am pleased to see this display of support for product stewardship on a national scale,” said Scott Cassel, PSI’s founder and chief executive officer. “The mayors’ support for mattress-specific legislation represents a tangible step toward more effective policies for managing a costly component of the municipal waste stream.”

PSI has been working to develop concrete EPR legislation for mattresses since 2010. The Institute has held several multi-stakeholder meetings with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), local governments in the state and across the nation, the mattress industry, retailers,

and others to discuss this proposed legislation. In May, 2012, the Connecticut Senate passed an EPR bill for mattresses with a vote of 32 to 4. However, the legislative session ended before the House could vote on the bill.

“EPR programs must be in the mix if municipalities are to be able to achieve long-term, sustainable, and affordable waste diversion and management goals,” said Marilyn Cruz-Aponte, assistant director of Hartford’s Department of Public Works. “In Connecticut’s continuing effort to pass EPR mattress legislation, communities statewide stand to save more than \$1.2 million from present disposal costs borne by taxpayers. A cooperative and shared cost for end-of-life management of mattresses lightens the taxpayer burden and also transforms mattresses into feedstock for Connecticut’s two mattress recycling facilities.”

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About the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products. PSI brings together key stakeholders with conflicting interests to develop product end-of-life solutions in a collaborative manner, with a focus on having manufacturers assume primary financial and managerial responsibility. With a robust membership base of 47 state governments and over 200 local governments, as well as partnerships with more than 75 companies, organizations, universities, and non-U.S. governments, PSI advances both voluntary programs and legislation to promote industry-led product stewardship initiatives. For more information, visit PSI online at www.productstewardship.us. You can also follow PSI on Twitter at twitter.com/ProductSteward and on Facebook at facebook.com/ProductStewardship.