

ANNA SCHARF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 23



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 3, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for SB 1576

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on SB 1576.

SB 1576 establishes a program to collect and manage discarded mattresses. The program is to be run by a stewardship organization, with oversight from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This measure also establishes the Mattress Stewardship Fund.

The bill directs that there must be, at a minimum, at least one permanent collection site in every county, 25 additional collection sites distributed throughout this state, and each county must hold at least one collection event per year.

While this all sounds like a great idea to promote mattress recycling, the lofty goal of the task is just a hidden tax on consumers called an "assessment". The estimated \$9-\$16 would be used to build the collection infrastructure, but will that be enough? If not, where does the funding come from?

Mattress manufacturers and/or mattress sales businesses will simply build in the cost of this program and pass it along with no guarantee that it will prevent people from dumping mattresses alongside the road or the State of Oregon from needing to bail out the program.

Therefore, I voted no on the bill.

Regards,

Anna