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**PRESIDENT OF SENATE DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO EARNS
MATTRESS RECYCLING COUNCIL'S
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

PROVIDENCE, RI. – President of Senate Dominick J. Ruggiero (D-North Providence) was honored as a recipient of the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award by the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC). The award recognizes and commends elected officials and stakeholders across the country who have made significant contributions toward protecting the environment.

Senator Ruggiero was the primary sponsor for Mattress Recycling Council enabling legislation. Since 2016, MRC has recycled more than 600,000 mattresses in Rhode Island and diverted more than 10,500 tons away from landfills.

Senator Ruggiero, an advocate for recycling and sustainability, has supported legislation to preserve the environment, including laws to establish paint and mercury recycling programs.

In addition, he supported the Plastic Waste Reduction Act, designed to reduce the use of plastic bags by retail establishments and a law establishing a statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction mandate.

Senator Ruggiero said, “It is an honor to be recognized with the Mattress Recycling Council’s Environmental Stewardship Award. Product stewardship initiatives like the mattress recycling program, which I was proud to sponsor when it became law a decade ago, have made a major difference in our efforts to protect Rhode Island’s environment. I am committed to our continued work together to keep our state clean, preserve our most precious resources, and create new opportunities for Rhode Islanders.”

About Mattress Recycling Council and Bye Bye Mattress

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states that have passed mattress recycling laws: California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. MRC was founded by the bedding industry and recycles nearly 2 million mattresses each year. For more information about MRC, go to [MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](https://www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org). To inform residents and businesses about the availability and importance of mattress recycling, MRC created a public education campaign branded Bye Bye Mattress. To learn how to recycle your mattress or to find a collection location or event near you, visit [ByeByeMattress.com](https://www.ByeByeMattress.com)..

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