



**PRBA – THE RECHARGEABLE BATTERY ASSOCIATION
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2062 -
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BATTERIES
February 18, 2025**

PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association strongly supports safe handling and responsible stewardship of batteries at the end of their intended use. We have worked extensively on and supported legislation to establish portable battery extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs with our model legislation in other states and have worked closely with Metro and other interested parties on the development of HB 2062. Many of the components of our model legislation are found in HB 2062.

Regrettably, however, we must oppose HB 2062 at this time. While we have several concerns with the bill text and its deviation from our model legislation, and have been working with Metro and others on modifications, two significant and unresolved concerns prevent our full support of HB 2062 as introduced:

1. Section 11 and Membership Fees. This section contains a statement that battery stewardship organization (BSO) fees must incentivize eco-modulation so that producers will continually reduce environmental and health impacts of covered products, encourage designs to facilitate reuse and recycling, encourage the use of recycled content in batteries, and other requirements. BSOs are unable to facilitate the concept of eco-modulation and such eco-modulated fees piloted in other markets have proven impossible to measure to decide “winners and losers.” PRBA suggest replacing “must” with “may” to make eco-modulation voluntary, or strike the section all-together. This item is addressed in a working draft based on conversations between PRBA and Metro and DEQ, but not yet part of the bill as proposed.
2. Section 13: Fees. The section states “The Environmental Quality Commission shall establish the following fees for the purpose of paying the costs of administering section 2 to 17 of this Act:” PRBA strongly opposes such open-ended fees. Any fees should be a known value for budgeting purposes and capped to avoid future disagreements on what is considered reasonable.

PRBA supports the concept of the bill, but in addition to the significant concerns mentioned above, we also have concerns with portions of the environmental sound management practices, the inclusion of recalled batteries as a covered product, vague requirements for notification of plan changes, overreach of public awareness locations and the requirement to track materials from beyond recycling to other end-uses. Most of these concerns are addressed in a working draft from conversations between PRBA and Metro and DEQ, but have not yet been made a part of the bill as proposed.



PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association
2050 M Street NW · Washington, DC 20036

PRBA will therefore continue to work closely with sponsors and other interested parties in the development of a portable battery EPR program in the best interest of Oregon’s residents and businesses.

PRBA Background

PRBA was formed in 1991 to respond to the need for workable portable rechargeable battery collection and recycling programs in the United States. To that end, PRBA members established pilot battery recycling programs in several states. Based on the success of these pilots, PRBA supported establishment and implementation of a national not-for-profit public education and portable battery recycling program.

PRBA members include the major manufacturers of rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries as well as the leading manufacturers of battery-powered portable electronic equipment, power tools, outdoor power equipment, medical and military equipment, and hybrid and electric vehicles, battery recyclers, retailers, and large distributors of all batteries and equipment powered by them. Many of our members participate in battery collection and recycling programs in the United States and globally.

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PRBA respectfully request the Committee to address the significant and unresolved concerns we have with HB 2062 prior to moving it forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Marc Boolish

Marc Boolish
Director
PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association