



Sustainability in Action

**Written testimony on HB 2062 by Cindy Rogers, Municipal Relationship Manager at Republic Services before the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment, February 18, 2025**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment. For the record, my name is Cindy Rogers, and I am the Municipal Relationship Manager at Republic Services, submitting written testimony on behalf of Republic Service in support of HB 2062.

The rapid growth in batteries and battery containing devices has had significant impacts on the Solid Waste Industry. Fires in trash and recycling collection trucks, transfer stations and material recovery facilities has become a safety hazard for the essential workers in our industry. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon to have a fire start in a trash or recycling truck due to the chemistry of Lithium-ion batteries and the compaction that occurs in the truck. It is key that these fires are prevented.

Many waste management facilities have had to make significant investments in fire suppression systems to help mitigate the safety risks and damage caused by battery fires. These costs affect the cost to service customers in our communities.

Implementing a battery Producer Responsibility Organization program is a responsible step in managing battery waste. Producers should provide funds to help prevent fires caused by Lithium-ion batteries by developing educational resources and materials to create public awareness. Public awareness is a crucial component in the prevention of battery fires.

Providing funds for fire suppression equipment, repairing or replacing property damage caused by these fires would be helpful to responsibly manage battery waste. A take back program to make collection free and convenient for consumers would help in solving this problem.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support of HB 2062.