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February 18, 2025

RE: Written Testimony HB2062

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gambe and Levy, and members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

I am speaking on behalf of Call2Recycle, the leading non-profit battery stewardship organization founded in 1994 to ensure the proper end-of-life management of batteries throughout the U.S. Since inception, Call2Recycle has successfully collected over 150 million pounds of consumer batteries throughout the US.

In most States, including Oregon, we have always been a voluntary program: over 200 battery and battery-powered product manufacturers voluntarily finance our work. Over 250 retailers, businesses, and municipalities across the State, including Lowe's, The Home Depot, and Staples, voluntarily serve as collection locations where consumers can drop off their batteries for recycling. In Oregon, under this voluntary program, Call2Recycle has collected over 370,000 pounds in the last 4 years.

As products increasingly rely on larger batteries, we've leveraged decades of experience to facilitate this growth, particularly in sectors like e-bikes and outdoor power equipment. In collaboration with PeopleForBikes, Call2Recycle established a voluntary, industry-wide e-bike battery recycling program, which now has the backing of over 50 e-bike brands and boasts more than 1,700 collection sites across the U.S. In 2024, with support from the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Call2Recycle launched the High Energy Battery program, focusing on the collection of larger batteries that power common outdoor household equipment, such as lawn mowers.

Over 30 years, Call2Recycle has developed a world-class network for battery collection and recycling. Battery recycling starts with consumers and businesses gathering their used batteries and dropping them off at one of the thousands of Call2Recycle collection sites across the country. After collecting, the batteries are shipped to the nearest battery sorter, where they are sorted by chemistry. Once sorted, full truckloads of each battery type are transported to approved Call2Recycle battery processors for recycling. The recovered materials are then reintroduced into the market to be used as feedstock to make new products.

Call2Recycle has operated approved plans in States that have had battery EPR laws in place such as Vermont, District of Columbia and New York. While operating the approved plans, Call2Recycle has had much success; in Vermont we have raised the collection rate of primary

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batteries to almost 30% in less than a decade while in the District of Columbia we increased pounds collected by over 160% in the first full year of the program. Despite these achievements, challenges remain, particularly in raising consumer awareness and encouraging recycling actions. Call2Recycle is committed to enhancing outcomes every year.

While Call2Recycle does not support or oppose legislative initiatives nor do we lobby, we do advocate solely based on our mission - to optimize battery collections. We appreciate the opportunity to speak with State stakeholders to provide best practices and lessons learned over 3 decades of operating a consumer facing battery collection and recycling program. We would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the stakeholders and the Committee to refine the bill to create a robust, sustainable law that can be implemented and managed successfully and cost-effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'll gladly respond to any questions you might have.



Carin Stuart
Director, Stewardship Services
Call2Recycle, Inc.