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Michelle Emmons  
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**February 19, 2025**

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House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2062 - Safe and Responsible Management of Batteries**

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 2062, which would provide for the safe and responsible management of batteries by establishing an Extended Producer Responsibility program.

Over the last decade, Willamette Riverkeeper has removed thousands of batteries from the Willamette River and riparian areas along the Willamette mainstem. Many batteries contain toxic or corrosive materials which leak into our groundwater, soil, and surface waters when not properly disposed of.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregonians dispose of over 4 million pounds of single-use and rechargeable batteries annually, a figure expected to rise with the increasing adoption of cordless tools, electric vehicles, and electronics. To address this growing concern, House Bill 2062 proposes that battery manufacturers manage and finance the collection, transportation, and recycling of these batteries. The bill also aims to establish accessible drop-off locations statewide, prohibit the disposal of lithium batteries in regular trash, and set performance goals for collection, recycling, and public education.

The need for a program like the Extended Producer Responsibility program cannot be overstated and will greatly reduce the environmental harms caused by improperly disposed of batteries. This bill will save the state money in cleanups and disposal sites as the program would be fully funded by those producing these batteries.

We encourage you to pass HB 2062 and help protect our people, animals, and environment from the hazards that stem from batteries being improperly disposed.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration,

Michelle Emmons  
Executive Director & Riverkeeper  
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