



February 18, 2025

House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee

**Re: HB 2062 Oregon Battery Extended Producer Responsibility – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chair Bonham & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Recology, I am writing in support of HB 2062, which would require manufacturers of batteries to create, fund, and implement a producer responsibility plan to properly manage batteries at the end of their useful life. As the largest 100% employee-owned company in the resource recovery industry, Recology manages recycling, organic waste, and solid waste collection, processing, and disposal services for urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout Oregon. Recology supports measures that reduce waste, promote circularity, and ensure a safe workplace.

Batteries contain metals and corrosive materials that make them an environmental hazard. Over 1.4 million pounds of batteries are thrown away in Oregon alone, and the market for consumer electronics continues to grow. These materials can be safely handled and recycled if disposed of properly. However, due to lack of funding and infrastructure, few options are available for consumers. Instead, they are often thrown into their waste or recycling containers, which poses environmental and safety hazards.

When batteries are improperly disposed of, they can be crushed or punctured, which often ignites fires. When this occurs in a refuse collection vehicle, on a material sort line, or in a landfill or transfer station, combustible materials will ignite. The National Waste and Recycling Association and Resource Recycling Systems estimate that more than 5,000 fires occur annually at recycling facilities, which pose significant health, safety, and environmental risks for our workers and the public. Providing effective and accessible solutions for these materials is long overdue.

HB 2062 will require manufacturers of batteries to manage and pay for the collection, transportation, and recycling of single-use and rechargeable batteries. By prohibiting disposal of batteries in the trash and establishing collection sites for 95% of Oregon residents, HB 2062 will help address the environmental health and worker safety threat that batteries pose. Furthermore, unlike the current system, an Extended Producer Responsibility program will not be funded by fees at sale or ratepayers.

For these reasons, we are proud to support HB 2062. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Garen Kazanjian  
Public Policy Manager  
Recology Inc.