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February 20, 2025

Representative John Lively, Chair
Representative Mark Gamba, Vice Chair
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice Chair
House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol, Room 453
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2062, Battery Producer Responsibility

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of HB 2062, which will establish a producer funded and managed stewardship program in Oregon for the collection and recycling of used primary, rechargeable, and medium-format batteries – a large majority of the batteries used by consumers today.

Americans generate more than 3 billion used batteries each year, but just 15% of rechargeable batteries and an even smaller percentage of single-use batteries are recycled. In landfills, batteries can release hazardous materials like mercury and lead into the environment. By ensuring the proper collection and recycling of batteries, HB 2062 will prevent pollution.

Lithium-ion batteries, which are used in a growing number of products, have sparked fires in trucks and at recycling and waste facilities that have caused millions of dollars in damage, worker injuries, and tragic deaths. HB 2062 would ensure sustainable funding for safe collection and recycling processes that reduce the incidence of fires, which increase insurance rates for businesses, especially at recycling facilities, transfer stations, and other solid waste management facilities.

Batteries also contain valuable materials such as steel, manganese, and zinc that are mined using energy-intensive processes that emit greenhouse gases. HB 2062 will ensure the recovery of these valuable resources for use as feedstock in new batteries and other products, thereby reducing the need for mining and associated greenhouse gas emissions. This bill would also benefit battery recyclers and manufacturers by providing a continuous flow of high-quality material that allows for long-term investments in local recycling and manufacturing facilities, thereby creating jobs.

Sustainable funding provided through HB 2062 will also reduce the financial burden on local governments that, in the absence of a stewardship program, would bear the financial and managerial costs of battery management.

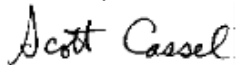
HB 2062 contains many of the best practices found in all successful battery stewardship laws.

Since 2014, Vermont, the District of Columbia, California, Washington, and Illinois have enacted battery extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws similar to HB 2062. In the 2025 session, many other states are pursuing similar legislation. It is time for Oregon to add batteries to their long list of EPR laws that have produced enormous benefits for residents and businesses in the state.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national policy expert and consulting nonprofit that pioneered product stewardship in the United States along with our members – hundreds of state and local government officials, including those in Oregon – and our partners from companies, environmental groups, academia, and international governments. Since 2000, PSI's facilitated dialogues, research, pilot projects, and policy models have helped shape most of the 141 EPR laws enacted for 20 industry sectors in 33 states.

I respectfully urge you to support **HB 2062** for the financial, environmental, and safety interests of Oregon's economy and communities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 236-4822, or Scott@ProductStewardship.US.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer/Founder