



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

February 3, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: SB 64 - Neutral**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

Verde is a community-based organization whose mission is to build environmental wealth through organizing, advocacy, and social enterprise. Environmental wealth means both access to clean technologies like renewable energy and electric vehicles, and also the freedom from environmental justice burdens associated with any kind of waste disposal. As one of the primary proponents of HB 2021 (2021), Verde supports battery storage as an essential part of implementation of this policy, but also recognizes the importance of the direction in the bill to “minimize environmental justice burdens”.

Responsible recycling and reuse of battery storage and electric vehicle battery components is an environmental justice issue. In particular, rural communities who lack access to electric vehicle infrastructure should not bear the burden of electric vehicle components at the end of their useful lives that come from other parts of the state. Verde supports the intentionality behind SB 64 because we support proactive strategies to a problem that, while far off, will be before us faster than we may be ready.

Verde also recognizes that there are many questions and concerns for the rural and remote communities where both renewable energy projects and landfills are more likely to be sited. While there are programs in other states, like Washington, and numerous studies about the impacts of renewable energy technology disposal and recycling, there is not yet a source of information that is grounded in the experiences and questions of Oregonians. To the extent that any work is done in Oregon, it should build off these other successful actions and conversations, and ensure that this information is accessible to Oregon communities.

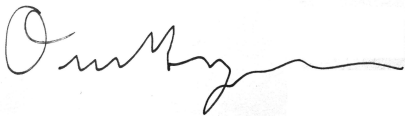
To that end, Verde recommends two small changes to SB 64 that may improve implementation and intentionality. The Oregon communities who are most concerned about what happens to battery storage and electric vehicle battery components, may also be communities for whom the State and a State-funded and -produced report may not be

the best messengers. Any resources that can be deployed through a comprehensive education campaign and space for people to get direct answers to their questions or share their fears, are both good community engagement practices, and an opportunity to build trust and tolerance around new technologies and their impacts.

The best possible paths for battery storage and electric vehicle battery components are through reuse and recycling. This is especially important so that lithium can be recovered and redeployed in ways that do not require the increased environmental justice burdens associated with mining. SB 64 may benefit from explicitly naming "recycling" and "reuse" as part of the study components, and also exploring ways to boost the Oregon economy through creative solutions associated with safe recycling and reuse programs, potentially close to where materials from renewable energy projects or electric vehicles may need to be removed.

Verde hopes that SB 64 can be an opportunity to start a conversation around how best to ensure that rural and remote communities experience and recognize the benefits of new technologies. We are grateful to the legislators who brought this concept forward for thoughtfully representing their communities and those communities' concerns. We stand ready to support further dialog.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oriana Magnera", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Oriana Magnera  
Energy, Climate, and Transportation Manager, Verde