

**Emerson Levy**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 53



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

Thank you for your time this afternoon to discuss House Bill 2062, legislation to ensure makers of batteries are carrying out plans to collect and recycle those batteries. Right now, to no fault of their own, consumers are throwing their items with batteries in the landfill, and this is leading to some serious consequences. Batteries in the trash can lead to fires in garbage and recycling trucks, at facilities, and in landfills. The number of batteries that will become waste is expected to increase dramatically with the rise of more portable and mobile products, such as consumer electronics, cordless power tools, and electric bikes and scooters sold on the market.

Last year, over one fire per week was reported in Deschutes County facilities and collection vehicles, but this issue is not unique to my district. Statewide, public and private solid waste facilities and collection service providers are seeing significant increases in high-heat, battery-caused fires, putting workers in danger and garbage and recycling infrastructure at risk.

These fires are threatening ratepayer funded infrastructure as well as private facilities. This bill will reduce the likelihood of these fires by providing convenient, collection locations throughout the state at no cost to the consumer.

Getting the batteries out of people's homes and out of garbage and recycling facilities reduces the risk of fire, significantly improves worker safety and is also safer for the environment. When batteries are recycled, valuable and critical minerals that power our technology can be recovered and environmental pollution is decreased.

Battery EPR is not a new concept. More than 10 states have passed bills and have laws in place. It's expected that around a dozen states are introducing battery EPR this legislative session to address the fire and worker safety issues that batteries in the garbage and recycling waste stream pose.

This bill was developed collaboratively with voices from the solid waste industry, cities and counties in Oregon, and national stakeholders including battery industry and brand producer associations, and I hope you will join me in supporting this bill.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, House District 53