

February 3, 2026

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

Subject: HB 4144 – Support

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

The Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program has been serving the tri-county region of the Columbia River Gorge for over twenty years. Our main mission is to divert hazardous materials from the wasteshed, and we do that through a series of annual hazardous waste collection events that serve households, small businesses and agricultural producers throughout our service area.

Citizens in our region care deeply about the impact products like batteries, even when deemed non-hazardous, have on our wasteshed. As a result, our program subsidizes non-hazardous battery recycling to a cost of between \$12k-\$20k a year. We have seen costs increase substantially with the increased use of lithium and other hazardous batteries that represent a significant fire or explosion risk to our transfer stations and landfill. Based on consumer practices, we anticipate those costs to continue to go up.

We support House Bill 4144 as a great step to addressing the risks and costs affiliated with proper battery disposal. Having a unified state policy will also make it easier to increase public awareness and best practices, avoid explosions and fires, and ensure for proper disposal.

Thank you for your support of this bill.