



COMMISSIONER RYAN CENIGA, District 1, West Lane

PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING / 125 EAST 8TH AVENUE / EUGENE, OR 97401

February 5, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

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

I write in strong support of HB 4144 for Safe Battery Collection and Recycling. This bill is urgently needed to address battery-caused fires that are putting garbage and recycling workers and public and private infrastructure at risk across Oregon. HB 4144 creates a battery extended producer responsibility (EPR) program. In 2025, this bill passed out of this committee with bipartisan support (11-1 vote count).

There is no general fund impact because of this bill. Like other EPR programs in Oregon, the program is fully funded by producers of covered products under the bill. DEQ utilizes other funds for initial implementation of the program. These funds are reimbursed by producer fees once the program is up and running.

The EPR program created by this bill requires battery manufacturers to manage and pay for the collection, transport, and recycling of single use and rechargeable batteries to reduce fires. Battery-caused fires are happening an average of once a week at some garbage and recycling facilities.

Since the spring of 2024, Lane County Waste Management has been working together with Metro and the Association of Oregon Recyclers to convene stakeholders and craft a bill that has bipartisan and producer support and will protect the people and infrastructure in our communities. Lane County has experienced 51 battery related thermal incidents in 2025 at the local landfill and has increased staffing to ensure 24/7 incident monitoring. A battery EPR program will reduce the number of batteries entering the landfill and increase the safety of our workers and facilities.

Colorado and Nebraska passed similar legislation in 2025. Fourteen states now have laws in place to address battery-caused fires. Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire and Wisconsin are also considering similar bills in 2026.

HB 4144 was developed through collaboration with Oregon's solid waste industry, local governments, and national battery producers. This bill represents a united effort to safeguard communities, garbage and recycling workers and infrastructure.

Thank you for supporting our community and reducing battery-caused fire risks by passing HB 4144.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Ryan Ceniga, Chair
West Lane District