



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

February 2, 2026

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

RE: HB 4144 – Support

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

On behalf of the Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association (ORRA) and the many solid waste service providers we represent in communities across Oregon, **we urge you to schedule and advance HB 4144 Safe Battery Collection and Recycling as soon as possible**. This bill is crucial to addressing battery-caused fires that are putting communities, our customers, garbage and recycling workers, and public and private infrastructure at risk across Oregon.

ORRA is the statewide trade association representing over 90 solid waste management companies in Oregon. Our regular members collect and process most of Oregon's residential and commercial refuse and recyclables, and operate material recovery facilities, compost facilities, and many of Oregon's municipal solid waste transfer stations and landfills. Additionally, ORRA has over 50 associate members that provide goods and services to our members, including various types of trucks and equipment needed for the proper collection and handling of solid waste and recycling.

This bill creates a battery extended producer responsibility program. It requires battery manufacturers to manage and pay for the collection, transport, recycling, and disposal of removable single use and rechargeable batteries to reduce fires. In 2025, this bill passed out of this committee with bipartisan support (11-1 vote count).

As the prevalence of batteries in common household items has increased, the risks to our members and our customers is increasing. Consumer products increasingly contain batteries that are making their way into our waste stream. Consumers are generally unaware of the dangers of even the most innocuous and ubiquitous of these batteries, like the ones powering our children's toys, fitness watches, and singing greeting cards – not to mention cordless power tools, e-bike batteries, etc. **This bill will require battery producers to increase public awareness of the dangers of improper battery disposal and provide funding to increase access to safe and convenient disposal options.**

Furthermore, fire loss is impacting garbage and recycling ratepayers. Battery-caused fires are happening an average of once a week at some garbage and recycling facilities. Batteries are also the frequent cause of fires in route trucks collecting garbage, recycling, and organics from the public. The costs to repair and replace facilities, equipment, and trucks are largely borne by ratepayers. **This bill will shift the cost of responsibility for ensuring batteries are handled in a safe and environmentally responsible way from ratepayers to battery producers.**

There is no general fund impact as a result of this bill. Like other EPR programs in Oregon, the program is fully funded by producers of covered products under the bill. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) utilizes other funds for initial implementation of the program. These funds are reimbursed by producer fees once the program is up and running. 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 in collaboration with Oregon's solid waste industry, local governments, and national battery producers. **This bill represents a united effort to safeguard communities, our customers, garbage and recycling workers, and our solid waste and recycling infrastructure.**

Thank you for supporting passage of HB 4144 and reducing battery-caused fire risks to communities across Oregon.

Sincerely,





Hood River
Garbage





Sustainability in Action



