



February 4th, 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 Rogue Disposal & Recycling, Rogue Transfer & Recycling, Rogue Compost, and Dry Creek Landfill, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4144. This bill creates a program throughout Oregon to help us combat one of the most hazardous and costly problems we face every day in our efforts to provide safe and efficient management of solid waste, recycling, and organics in our communities – battery fires.

This bill establishes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for batteries. It requires battery producers to cover the costs of collection, transport, and appropriate end of life management of single use and rechargeable batteries. HB 4144 also provides funding for much needed public awareness and educational campaigns to alert the public to the dangers posed by damaged and improperly discarded batteries, and to direct them to convenient and safe disposal options in their communities.

As battery powered devices become increasingly common in consumer products, we are seeing the incidence of fires in our collection trucks, transfer stations, recycling processing facilities, compost facilities and landfills increase at an alarming rate. Battery-caused fires occur an average of once a week at some garbage and recycling facilities, and these fires threaten the health and safety of the many drivers and equipment and facility operators who manage the waste in our communities in southern Oregon.

We are particularly sensitive to the risks and threats of wildfire in and around our southern Oregon communities, and our trucks operate on routes daily throughout these communities. Just last year, a catastrophic battery-ignited garbage collection truck fire here in southern Oregon came perilously close to turning into a wildfire on its route in Jackson County.

There is no general fund impact as a result of this bill. Like other EPR programs in Oregon, the program is funded by producers of covered products under the bill. DEQ utilizes other funds for initial implementation of the program, and 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 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.

The Rogue Waste family of companies strongly urges passage of HB 4144, and thanks you for protecting and supporting our workers and communities in southern Oregon.

Sincerely,



Loren Brown
District Manager
Rogue Waste, Inc.