



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Administrator's Office

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County Administrator

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February 4, 2026

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and
Environment
900 Court Street NE, H-481
Salem OR 97301

Representative Mark Gamba, Vice-Chair
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and
Environment
900 Court Street NE, H-274
Salem OR 97301

Representative Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and
Environment
900 Court Street NE, H-385
Salem OR 97301

RE: Support for Oregon House Bill 4144 (2026)

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment:

On behalf of Jackson County, I urge you to schedule and advance Oregon House Bill (HB) 4144 (2026), concerning safe battery collection and recycling, as soon as possible. This legislation is critical to reduce battery-caused fires that threaten the safety of our communities, solid waste workers, and public infrastructure across Oregon.

Jackson County manages essential solid waste and recycling services for its residents, and we have seen firsthand the growing risks posed by improperly disposed of batteries. Fires caused by batteries are occurring with alarming frequency—sometimes weekly at facilities and in collection vehicles. These incidents endanger workers, damage equipment, and increase costs that ultimately fall on customers.

HB 4144 establishes an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for batteries by requiring manufacturers to fund and manage the collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of single-use and rechargeable batteries. This approach shifts the burden of safe battery management from local governments and customers to producers, where it belongs.

As batteries become more common in everyday products, from toys and greeting cards to power tools and e-bikes, the risk of fires in the waste stream continues to grow. This Bill will not only improve safety but also increase public awareness and provide convenient disposal options for consumers. Importantly, HB 4144 has no impact on Oregon's general fund. Like other EPR programs, it is funded entirely by producers. Similar legislation has already passed in other states.

Chair Lively
Vice-Chair Gamba and Vice-Chair Levy
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This Bill reflects a collaborative effort among local governments, the solid waste industry, and battery producers. Jackson County strongly supports HB 4144 and urges its passage to safeguard our communities and reduce fire risks statewide.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,



Danny Jordan
County Administrator

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By: Submitted online at: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2026R1/Testimony/HCEE/HB/4144/0000-00-00-00-00?area=Measures>