



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

February 3, 2026

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

RE: HB 4144 - Battery Producer Responsibility Program – Support

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

On behalf of the City of Portland, we are writing to express our support of House Bill 4144 to create a Battery Producer Responsibility Program. 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.

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.

In 2024, the City of Portland implemented a battery collection program for residents in response to this crisis in the waste system. While this is a step in the right direction, it leans on Portland residents to pay for the cost of this program. We highly recommend this effort to shift the costs to producers for a drop off network and a battery recycling option through regular-occurring waste and recycling collection services.



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | www.portland.gov/bps
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Two Metro transfer stations experienced 58 battery related fires in 2025. These fires are easy to identify due to their characteristics and require special procedures to extinguish. A battery EPR program will reduce battery fires at transfer stations and increase safety for workers and facilities.

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. 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 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 by reducing battery-caused fire risks by passing HB 4144 - Battery Producer Responsibility Program.

Sincerely,



Eben Polk
Solid Waste and Recycling Manager, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, City of Portland

