



February 4, 2026

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy & the Environment:

On behalf of Recology, I am writing in support of HB 4144, which would establish a comprehensive producer-responsibility program for single-use and rechargeable household batteries. As the largest 100% employee-owned company in the resource recovery industry, Recology provides recycling, organics processing, and solid waste services in communities across Oregon—from large cities to rural towns. We appreciate the Committee's commitment to addressing battery-related fire risks and improving safe disposal options for Oregonians.

Every year, Oregonians throw away more than 1.4 million pounds of batteries, many of which contain metals and corrosive materials that become hazardous when they end up in garbage and recycling carts. Without convenient, well-funded collection infrastructure, most residents lack safe and accessible options to properly dispose of these materials.

The consequences are significant. When batteries are crushed or punctured in a collection truck, on a sorting line, or at a transfer station, they can ignite instantly. Across the United States, more than 5,000 fires occur annually at recycling facilities. Recology has experienced this risk firsthand at many of our Oregon locations, including 58 battery-related fires at the Metro transfer stations, which we operate, in the last 12 months alone.

HB 4144 offers the solution Oregon urgently needs. The bill requires battery manufacturers to design, fund, and operate a statewide producer-responsibility system that collects, transports, and recycles both single-use and rechargeable batteries. It prohibits batteries from being disposed of in the trash and ensures that 95% of Oregonians will have convenient access to collection sites. Additionally, this program does not shift costs to consumers or ratepayers and requires no General Fund resources.

This approach will reduce fire risks, protect workers, safeguard infrastructure, support environmental and public health, and align Oregon with best practices for the circular and responsible management of battery materials.

For these reasons, Recology strongly supports HB 4144, and we respectfully urge the Committee's "yes" vote.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Julia Mangin
Director of Sustainability & Government Affairs
Recology