



February 5, 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,

Please support and pass **HB 4144**. This legislation will significantly improve battery recycling outcomes in Oregon through safer collection systems, higher recovery rates, and reduced environmental impacts.

HB 4144 establishes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for single-use and rechargeable batteries, requiring manufacturers to fund and manage statewide collection, transportation, and recycling. By shifting responsibility upstream, this bill ensures batteries are handled through dedicated, safe, and environmentally responsible systems rather than entering the waste stream where they pose risks to people and infrastructure.

A well-designed battery EPR program will dramatically **increase battery recycling rates** by making collection more accessible and consistent across Oregon. It will also **reduce environmental harm** by keeping toxic and valuable materials out of landfills, conserving critical resources, and supporting domestic recycling markets.

Equally important, safer and more standardized collection will **reduce battery-related fires** at recycling and solid waste facilities. These fires are a growing problem across the state, endangering workers, damaging equipment, disrupting services, and increasing costs for communities. Proper collection and processing of batteries is one of the most effective ways to mitigate this risk.

HB 4144 has **no impact on the state's General Fund**. Like other EPR programs in Oregon, it is fully funded by battery producers. While DEQ may use existing resources for initial program setup, those costs are reimbursed through producer fees once the program is operational.

Oregon would join a growing number of states taking action. Colorado and Nebraska passed similar laws in 2025, bringing the total to fourteen states with battery-related legislation.

Several additional states are considering similar measures in 2026, reflecting a clear national trend toward producer responsibility for batteries.

HB 4144 was developed collaboratively with local governments, the solid waste and recycling industry, and battery producers. It represents a balanced, practical solution that improves environmental outcomes, protects workers, and modernizes battery management in Oregon.

Thank you for your leadership and for supporting legislation that promotes safer recycling, higher recovery rates, and a healthier environment for Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Sonya Carlson
Executive Director
BRING
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