



February 4, 2026

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

RE: HB XXXX – Support

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

Please pass HB XXXX Safe battery collection and recycling. 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. In 2025, this bill passed out of this committee with bipartisan support (11-1 vote count).

This bill creates a battery extended producer responsibility program. It 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 Deschutes County we are experiencing the risk of battery related fires in every facet of our solid waste system. We are addressing fires on the landfill weekly if not daily. We have had fires in both of our enclosed transfer stations over the past year, and there have been 14 reported fires in our franchise collection vehicle during the past two years. It is a systemic risk that impacts our rate payers and imperils our infrastructure.

**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 XXXX 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 XXXX.

Sincerely,

*Tim Brownell*

Tim Brownell – Director of Solid Waste



