

COURTNEY NERON MISSLIN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 13



OREGON STATE SENATE
Testimony in Support of HB4144

February 5, 2026

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

For the record, I am Senator Courtney Neron Misslin. I write in strong support of HB4144, a bill to establish extended producer responsibility for batteries sold in Oregon.

As policymakers, I believe we should insist on an end of life waste management plan for every product we create. Doing so reduces greenhouse gases and waste, and increases the likelihood that materials will be diverted into responsible reuse, recycling, and safe disposal pathways. As for batteries, we must do everything we can to minimize risk, manage waste proactively, and educate the public on fire prevention and environmental contamination.

There are significant environmental and health impacts of hazardous materials getting crushed in our waste streams, igniting, and releasing toxic chemicals into our air. These incidents endanger workers, damage infrastructure, and are increasingly costly. Workers should not be asked to shoulder the risk of fires and toxic exposure caused by products that lack clear, consistent recycling and management systems.

In my district Pride Disposal sits directly on top of the Kinder Morgan petroleum gas pipeline. On my tour of the facility a few years ago, I was struck by the fact that a warning sign for fires stood near the sign indicating the path of the pipeline, one of the oldest pipelines on the west coast. This proximity immediately called to mind the 1999 Olympic Pipeline explosion in Bellingham, WA. Eliminating the possibility of fires near petroleum pipelines is a necessity and this bill is a critical step in prevention.

As we work to protect Oregon ratepayers from the increasing costs of utilities, and local governments from the cost of emergencies, we cannot ignore the financial burden of the ever-increasing fires in our trucks, transfer stations, and landfills. This EPR program will

be funded by producers, not ratepayers or local utilities. With this program manufacturers that participate in the system will be able to sell batteries in Oregon, giving consumers confidence in the products they are buying and providing a pathway for safe disposal.

It is time for Oregon to join the many other states with similar extended producer responsibility policies for batteries. This will reduce costly and dangerous fires, protect infrastructure and human health, and improve materials recovery.

I urge your support for safe and responsible battery recycling in Oregon. Please pass HB4144.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron Misslin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Courtney Neron Misslin