



March 25, 2025

Minnesota House  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

**Re: Battery Recycling (HF1426)**

Dear Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman, and Members of the Committee,

Eureka Recycling is committed to improving recycling and reducing waste in Minnesota. HF1426 is a key policy in helping us do this.

We are a social enterprise, recycler in the Twin Cities, processing over 100,000 tons of mostly residential recycling each year. We work to demonstrate that recycling can and should be done in ways that benefit our environment, communities, and the regional economy. Unfortunately, batteries placed in the recycling cart are increasingly impacting the health and safety of our workers and increasing the cost of doing business.

Over the years, we have experienced as many as 20 fires in a year—at times 1–2 per week—in our Material Recovery Facility (MRF) or inside one of our recycling trucks. These fires are caused by batteries that have been improperly disposed of in residential recycling carts. As we've seen at recycling facilities around the country, these fires can spread very quickly through highly flammable paper and plastic streams. The fires and the toxic smoke they produce pose serious risks to our team members and the surrounding community.

In addition to the danger of fires, batteries create significant direct costs for recycling systems. These costs include:

- **Insurance Costs:** Across the industry, we have seen dramatic increases in facility insurance costs—rising from less than 20 cents per \$100 of insured property value to as much as \$10 per \$100. Battery fires are making it difficult or even impossible for some recyclers, including Eureka, to secure coverage.
- **Disposal Costs:** We remove and properly manage batteries that end up in our system, adding operational costs that are not currently covered by producers.
- **Equipment Costs:** Fires and battery-related incidents damage equipment and increase wear and tear due to heat exposure and emergency shutdowns.

Without a convenient, accessible, and well-funded system for proper battery collection and recycling, these risks and costs will continue to escalate. HF1426 provides a needed solution by creating a statewide system that makes battery recycling safe, accessible, and free for residents, while holding producers responsible for managing these materials at end of life.

We welcome you and your staff to visit Eureka and tour our MRF, where you can see firsthand the challenges batteries pose to the recycling system. We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Mullany', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lucy Mullany  
Vice President of Policy & Communications  
Eureka Recycling  
[lucym@eurekarecycling.org](mailto:lucym@eurekarecycling.org)



March 25, 2025

Minnesota House  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

**Re: Battery Recycling (HF1426)**

Dear Co-Chair Heintzeman, Co-Chair Fischer, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition and our community partners listed below, we are writing in support of HF1426.

The Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition is an alliance of Minnesota-based environmental organizations, environmental justice advocates, sustainable waste service providers, and community members committed to advancing a future for Minnesota without waste. **This bill supports expanded access to battery recycling and is needed to help us build a zero waste future for Minnesotans.**

Battery waste presents a growing and urgent challenge for our state. Under the current system, most batteries are still ending up in the trash, where they pose serious risks. Landfill and waste facility fires caused by discarded batteries now occur regularly across Minnesota, putting workers in danger and costing millions of dollars in public funds each year. These fires are not only dangerous—they are significant pollution events that harm air quality, contaminate soil and water, and impact nearby communities. The 2023 landfill fire in Rice County, which burned for nearly a week, is just one example of the scale and severity of this issue.

At the same time, Minnesotans are currently paying for battery recycling through taxes and fees, despite the fact that manufacturers are best positioned to design and fund safe end-of-life management systems. Our existing collection infrastructure is limited, inconsistent, and difficult for residents to navigate, leading to low recovery rates and preventable harm.

HF 1426 would establish a modern, producer-funded system that ensures batteries are managed responsibly. Specifically, the bill would:

- Make battery recycling free and convenient for all Minnesota residents
- Significantly expand collection opportunities across the state
- Require clear, consistent public education on how and where to recycle batteries
- Shift the financial responsibility from taxpayers to producers, saving public dollars

By creating a comprehensive, producer-funded system, this legislation will reduce fire risk, protect workers and communities, and ensure valuable materials are recovered and responsibly managed.

We urge you to support and pass HF 1426. We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments. You can learn more about the MN Zero Waste Coalition at [www.mnzerowaste.org](http://www.mnzerowaste.org).

**The following Minnesota Zero Waste Coalition members, partners, and local businesses sign-on to this letter:**

Alliance for Sustainability	Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Beyond Plastics Mankato Area	Sonorous Love, Minneapolis, MN
City of Lakeland	St Luke Presbyterian Church
Clean Water Action	Upstream Exhibits, Saint Paul, MN
Coalition for Plastic Reduction MN	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
CURE	Vadnais Heights Green Team
Edina Community Lutheran Church	WaterLegacy
Elder Climate Action Twin Cities	
Element Pizza, Minneapolis, MN	
Ely Climate Group	
Eureka Recycling	
Health Advocates	
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate	
Field Guide Inc.	
Lakeville Friends of the Environment	
League of Women Voters of Minnesota	
Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota	
Mankato Area Zero Waste	
Minnesota Automation Surplus	
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table	
Minnesota Environmental Partnership	
Northeast Metro Climate Action	
Peter's Family Lawn Snow, Saint Paul, MN	
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action (RECA)	
Resilient Cities & Communities	
Reuse Minnesota	

**MINNESOTA  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

**GROWING MINNESOTA**

March 26, 2026

Representative Josh Heintzeman  
Co-Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources  
Finance and Policy Committee

Representative Peter Fischer  
Co-Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources  
Finance and Policy Committee

Co-Chair Fischer and Co-Chair Heintzeman:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, a statewide organization representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than half a million employees, I write today regarding the DE Amendment to HF 1426 (Rep. Hollins), which creates a standalone removable batteries-only product stewardship program.

Since the initial introduction of an electronic waste and batteries extended producer responsibility proposal last session, the Minnesota Chamber has remained ready and willing to engage in dialogue with all stakeholders. We participated, along with other industry representatives, nonprofits, public sector leaders, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in several working group sessions over the interim to find agreement where possible.

The group reached consensus on several issues, including adequately reimbursing counties, operating a flexible program overseen by MPCA, preserving a market-based Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) structure, and creating separate programs for batteries and electronic waste. There never was unanimity in the working group sessions, but robust consensus was common.

MPCA chose a different route and is only moving forward with a bill addressing removable batteries. While separating batteries from electronic waste is a key principle, it is only one of many issues remaining.

The legislature has the option to solve both electronic waste and battery product stewardship this session. We encourage policy makers to advance compromise solutions that provide convenience for consumers, safe disposal of products, and appropriate reimbursement for counties with reasonable costs for all.

Thank you to the Committee for your work on this issue. The Minnesota Chamber and its members stand ready and willing to solve the battery and electronic waste stewardship problem.

Sincerely,



380 St. Peter Street, Suite 1050, St. Paul, MN 55102  
[www.mnchamber.com](http://www.mnchamber.com)

Andrew Morley  
Director, Environmental Policy  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
[amorley@mnchamber.com](mailto:amorley@mnchamber.com)  
763-221-7523



CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA

March 26, 2026

RE: HF1426 (Hollins)

Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman, and members of the House Environment Committee,

Conservation Minnesota writes to you to express our support for HF1426 (Hollins), which, with the adoption of the proposed amendment, establishes a stewardship program for batteries in Minnesota. Programs like this are an important tool for cleaning up our solid waste system and creating more accountability for their end-of-life care.

Improving our battery waste system and procedures serves several environmental needs. It mitigates toxic runoff from batteries into our water and soil, and removes these same toxics from the waste stream, where they contaminate recyclable materials. It also makes retrieving valuable critical materials easier, helping to bring us closer to a circular system based on reuse. Further, it protects waste workers by helping to limit dangerous fires and emergencies caused by batteries in sorting facilities and on garbage trucks.

The new language in the amendment is the product of a thorough and detailed stakeholder engagement process. It reflects both a compromise and real progress towards solving some of the most pressing solid waste issues in our modern technology economy. The proposed program requires a stewardship plan for all covered battery manufacturers, ensuring that as new batteries are made and distributed, companies are responsible for their entire useful life, including their disposal.

In summary, Conservation Minnesota supports HF1426 (Hollins) as an important step towards updating our battery and electronic waste system. We urge the committee to support the bill as amended to help bring our waste management laws up to date with modern needs.

Sincerely,  
Nels Paulsen  
Policy Director  
[nels@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:nels@conservationminnesota.org)

James Lehner  
Policy Associate  
[james@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:james@conservationminnesota.org)



**PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association**  
**HF 1426 - Oppose**  
**Stewardship program for circuit boards, batteries, and electrical products**  
**March 26, 2026**

PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association strongly supports safe handling and responsible stewardship of batteries at the end of their intended use. We have worked extensively on and supported legislation to establish portable battery extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs with our model legislation in other states and have worked closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on revisions to HF 1426 to focus solely on batteries. While HF 1426 is getting closer, and dialogue with MPCA continues in a very collaborative and constructive manner, PRBA is opposed to the amended language for HF 1426 for two significant reasons:

**1. HF 1426 includes recalled batteries in the definition of covered batteries**

It is not a question of whether recalled batteries can or should be collected and recycled. They can be collected and should be collected. It is more of a question of the responsibility for managing these batteries. In a battery stewardship organization (BSO) model, producers of batteries are responsible for implementing a program where the producers pay into the program based on their common share of the market by chemistry of battery. Recalls are expansive and involve activities that are not a common item for the overall battery industry, and their management should solely be placed on the recalling producer and not spread amongst the entire industry. Including recalled batteries from one producer effectively punishes other producers who have not issued a recall. These batteries should not be placed in common collection containers, involve specialized training for personnel managing them, and require specific packaging, storage, and transportation considerations.

These recalls also often involve entities without a U.S. presence and forcing a BSO to operate a recall and try to recoup the cost of recalls from producers is often impossible. A better solution is the exempt recalled batteries from HF 1426 and create a separate piece of legislation that forces recalling producers (not just for batteries) to either manage their recalls or have their products removed from consideration of sale. This is an approach being taken in California with AB 2462, has been discussed with MPCA, and is a fairer proposition for any takeback program (not just for batteries).

**2. HF 1426 includes certain large format batteries as covered batteries**

The PRBA model bill and other laws passed or being considered around the U.S. focus on portable (small and medium format) batteries that are easily carried by battery users. Battery users routinely interact with these batteries and can take them to convenient drop-off points established by a BSO. Large format batteries are different in that users cannot easily carry them, and they do not fit with existing loose

battery collection infrastructure. These batteries require different models for collection and should be part of a separate piece of legislation dedicated to their unique use and management. The inclusion of large format batteries also falls out of harmonization with other programs being established through legislation in other states around the U.S.

There also remain other details in the bill PRBA opposes including:

**1. Infrastructure investment (page 13.22 of revised draft)**

In the reimbursement section, costs include “necessary collection and storage structures and containers”. While a battery stewardship organization will provide educational and functional materials and containers for collection, use of the work structures implies permanent infrastructure that should not be part of a BSO plan. Simply removing “structures and” would resolve our concern.

**2. The inclusion of at home pickup (Subdivision 2 (b) at page 20.9 of revised draft)**

Having a stewardship organization offer individual pickup from households runs counter to environmental gains from a stewardship program and is extremely burdensome and challenging to operate. A stewardship program will provide convenient collection points and run temporary events as included in the clause, but the household pickup must be removed.

\* \* \* \*

**PRBA Background**

PRBA was formed in 1991 to respond to the need for workable portable rechargeable battery collection and recycling programs in the United States. To that end, PRBA members established pilot battery recycling programs in several states. Based on the success of these pilots, PRBA supported establishment and implementation of a national not-for-profit public education and portable battery recycling program.

PRBA members include the major manufacturers of rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries as well as the leading manufacturers of battery-powered portable electronic equipment, power tools, outdoor power equipment, medical and military equipment, and hybrid and electric vehicles, battery recyclers, retailers, and large distributors of all batteries and equipment powered by them. Many of our members participate in battery collection and recycling programs in the United States and globally.

\* \* \* \*

PRBA asks the committee to add recalled batteries to the list of what is not a covered battery, remove large format non-lead acid batteries entirely from the bill and address removing household pickup and structure requirements from the language. Large format batteries should be addressed separately, and we welcome the opportunity to work with MPCA and other stakeholders on large format batteries in another vehicle and continue the dialogue on the existing language.

Sincerely,

*Marc Boolish*

Marc Boolish

Executive Director

PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association

March 26, 2026

Before the Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy  
**HF 1426 (Hollins)**  
Oppose unless amended

Dear Chairs Heintzeman and Fischer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Battery Council International (BCI), I am pleased to provide written testimony today on **HF 1426 – An act Establishing a Stewardship Program for Circuit Boards, Batteries, and Electrical Products.**

At this time BCI must oppose the legislation, unless amended. BCI has been working with MN PCA and other stakeholders for several months on the new bill language, however, and BCI has agreed to support the committee passing the bill in order to provide more time to allow for continued collaborative work on the language.

I would like to note for the record that BCI's two concerns—and reason for today's opposition to the bill includes:

1. The definition of "Large lead-acid battery" (§ 3(w))
  - a. This definition is unnecessarily complex and confusing, especially to the general public.
2. The changes to the existing (and extremely successful) lead battery law (§§ 14-16)
  - a. Any changes narrowing the scope of the current collection and recycling of lead batteries will be opposed by BCI.

These concerns are inclusive of the conversations we have been having with MN PCA.

BCI has been the leading trade association for the incumbent battery industry since 1924. We represent over 125 members consisting of manufacturers, recyclers, and suppliers across North America. Our members produce 98% of U.S. lead batteries and have business portfolios in multiple battery chemistries in addition to lead (*e.g.*, lithium, flow, sodium).

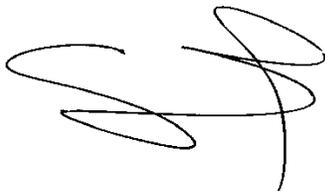
BCI applauds the state's efforts to further promote the collection and recycling of batteries and the products they power. The lead battery industry operates the most successful circular economy in the United States, recycling over 99% of end-of-life batteries each year.

Our first-hand experience demonstrates that recycling can be a principal component to a robust domestic manufacturing industry, increasing America's resource independence. At the same time, our recycling network reduces waste and limits greenhouse gas creation and environmental impacts. The industry is committed to safe and sustainable recycling methods to ensure that lead batteries are an essential part of an energy storage mix to achieve a cleaner, greener future. Approximately 90% of the lead batteries sold in North America are manufactured here, and at the end of life they are recycled here. And we see a bright future for other battery chemistries' domestic footprint and potential to build infrastructure for a closed-loop system in the U.S.

As noted above, the lead battery industry has built the world's most effective and efficient recycling network, which runs state-wide pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 325E.115, which was first adopted in 1987. This statute is based on the BCI Model Legislation for lead battery recycling, a form of which is in place in more than 40 states nationwide. It is the single most effective recycling framework in the nation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on behalf of Battery Council International. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further insight into the lead battery recycling network.

Kindest regards,



Susan E. Bernard  
Vice President, Government Relations & Sustainability



Co-Chair Peter Fischer  
5th Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Josh Heintzeman  
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55154

March 26, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association's (MICA) 17 member counties, we are writing in support of HF1426, as amended during today's hearing, which provides a much-needed update to Minnesota's waste collection law by establishing a product stewardship program for batteries.

County support for product stewardship stems from our own investments in innovative approaches to solid waste management, based on Minnesota's waste management hierarchy which prioritizes waste reduction and recycling activities. However, manufacturers and producers are uniquely positioned to help mitigate the hazards of end-of-life disposal for products like batteries. MICA supports and appreciates the significant steps taken in 2024 aimed at reducing the quantity of packaging waste and paper products entering landfills. HF1426 represents a reasonable next step in extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to ensure all stakeholders are involved in mitigating the environmental consequences of our growing waste problem.

With MICA counties managing nearly half (44%) of the waste generated in the state<sup>1</sup>, we are especially aware of the risks posed by batteries that end up in landfills or other waste management facilities, where hazardous materials can leak and contaminate the soil and groundwater. Counties have tried to keep up with a rapidly evolving battery and electronics market, but a standardized, statewide approach will make safe disposal methods equally available to all consumers and better protect our environment. We hope that you will support HF1426 and ensure that Minnesota is leading the way in removing some of the most toxic products from our waste stream.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nathan Jesson'.

Nathan Jesson  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel Sosnowchik'.

Rachel Sosnowchik  
Environmental Liaison  
Minnesota Inter-County Association

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2024 SCORE Report

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Peter Fischer, Co-Chair  
House Environment and Natural  
Resources Finance and Policy  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Josh Heintzeman, Co-Chair  
House Environment and Natural  
Resources Finance and Policy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

**Re: HF 1426 (Hollins); Stewardship program for circuit boards, batteries, and electrical products established**

Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Heintzeman and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1426, legislation that would establish a stewardship program for circuit boards, batteries and certain electrical products. The current market-based system already recycles nearly **80 percent of appliances and can be as high as 90 percent**. This legislation would wedge a new program into that success story. For the reasons outlined below, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is opposed to HF 1426.

HF 1426 would require a stewardship organization to implement and operate a program to collect used appliances that contain batteries and manage the components of those products. Rechargeable battery disposal safety depends on whether the battery is easily removable or removed properly by someone knowledgeable. Electric toothbrushes and shavers, for example, are regularly exposed to water. The product's battery must remain dry and cannot risk exposure to water. Security of the battery ensures safe use of the product. It is important that the battery remains securely in the product and not easily removed by the consumer.

Other jurisdictions that have considered or enacted similar legislation have exempted embedded batteries that are not easily removed with common household tools. [Washington state's 2023 law](#) exempted: "A battery in a battery-containing product that is not intended or designed to be easily removable from the battery containing product." According to the law, "Easily removable means designed by the manufacturer to be removable by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools." Legislation currently being considered in Connecticut, as well as other states, also includes this provision.

An additional concern is that EPR programs generally charge by weight. Since payment is based on the weight of the whole product, non-easily removable embedded batteries are disadvantaged. An electric shaver, for example, does not have a removable battery pack and would have to pay for the weight of the entire product.

There is no need for a new program and fee structure to interfere with the current successful system that collects **78 percent of appliances**.<sup>1</sup> Most appliances placed curbside are quickly collected because the value of the materials enclosed in the appliance incentivizes people to recover abandoned appliances and deliver them to a scrap yard for recycling.

### **Conclusion**

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 1426 and strongly urges the Committee to oppose the bill. The current system for appliance recovery works and should be allowed to continue its successful path.

Sincerely,



Jacob Cassady  
Director, Government Relations  
(202) 202.872.5955 x327  
[jcassady@aham.org](mailto:jcassady@aham.org)

### **About AHAM:**

AHAM represents more than 160 member companies that manufacture 90% of the major, portable and floor care appliances shipped for sale in the U.S. Home appliances are the heart of the home, and AHAM members provide safe, innovative, sustainable and efficient products that enhance consumers' lives.

The home appliance industry is a significant segment of the economy, measured by the contributions of home appliance manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to the U.S. economy. In all, the industry drives nearly \$200 billion in economic output throughout the U.S. and manufactures products with a factory shipment value of more than \$50 billion.

In Minnesota, the home appliance industry is a significant and critical segment of the economy. The total economic impact of the home appliance industry to Minnesota is \$3.6 billion, more than 20,000 direct jobs and indirect jobs, \$468.5 million in state tax revenue and more than \$1.2 billion in wages.

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<sup>1</sup> [AISI-and-SMA-Steel-Recycling-Rates-Report-Final-07-27-2021.pdf](#)



**MOTORCYCLE  
INDUSTRY  
COUNCIL**



February 27, 2025

House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
St Paul, MN 55155

**Re: MIC, SVIA, and ROHVA Request Off-Highway Vehicle Exclusion: HF 1426/SF 1690**

Dear Chairs Hawj, Heintzeman, and Members of the Committees:

The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)<sup>1</sup>, the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)<sup>2</sup>, and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)<sup>3</sup> represent several hundred companies in the powersports industry. MIC, SVIA, and ROHVA request the exclusion of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), including all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and recreational off-highway vehicles, from HF 1426/SF 1690.

HF 1426/SF 1690 creates a stewardship program for circuit boards and batteries (defined as covered products), excluding certain batteries, such as those for motor vehicles. It appears to be the *intent* of the legislation to not capture OHVs, but given that the legislation's definition of "motor vehicles" does not include OHVs, we request that OHVs also be specifically excluded. This could easily be done as suggested below:

*(j) "Covered product" means:*

*(4) a product that has a covered circuit board, a covered battery, or a cathode-ray tube contained within it or otherwise attached or connected to it, except;*

*(i) a medical device meeting the definition of a device under United States Code, title 21, section 321, unless it is marketed for use in a household, as defined in section 115A.96;*

*and*

*(ii) a motor vehicle, as defined in section 168.002; and*

*(iii) an off-highway vehicle, as defined in section 84.771.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing several hundred manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle parts, accessories and related goods, and allied trades.

<sup>2</sup> The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the United States. SVIA's primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ATVs.

<sup>3</sup> The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a national, not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs – sometimes referred to as side-by-sides or UTVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA is also accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to serve as the Standards Developing Organization for ROVs. More information on the standard can be found at <https://rohva.org/ansi-standard/>.

Many powersports dealers and retailers are small businesses who can ill afford increased cost and regulatory requirements. Erecting additional barriers and cost requirements through legislation only serves to create an environment for powersports businesses where options become more limited to respond to economic challenges. Ultimately, when the cost of doing business increases, it hurts everyone – consumers, manufacturers/distributors, and dealers – and Minnesota residents will likely seek alternatives such as purchasing from neighboring states/communities where goods won't be subject to expensive compliance costs. Electric powersports vehicles are sold in much lower volumes than automobiles and manufacturers of electric powersports have much smaller margins on their vehicles which have required significant up-front costs to develop and bring to market. Any added cost pressures, including through an EPR-style program, would be harmful when applied to OHVs.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sschloegel@MIC.org](mailto:sschloegel@MIC.org) or 703-446-0444 x 3202.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Schloegel  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: HF 1426/SF 1690 sponsors



MINNESOTA  
RESOURCE  
RECOVERY  
ASSOCIATION

**ZERO WASTED**  
MAKING EVERY RESOURCE COUNT

March 25, 2026

Dear Chair Fischer and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

The Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) is pleased to offer our support for HF 1426, as amended, which focuses the bill on establishing a product stewardship program for batteries.

The MRRA is a private-public membership organization that supports the utilization of today's waste as a local, renewable, and sustainable resource for tomorrow's energy. Our membership represents 1/3 of Minnesota counties in their solid waste management and recycling needs.

We know from experience that batteries—particularly lithium-ion—are increasingly entering the mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) stream, creating significant safety risks, including fires at solid waste facilities. Our facilities regularly see lithium-ion batteries in the handling and processing of MSW and are witnessing multiple small fires every month.

Minnesota has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on infrastructure to properly process MSW and recyclable materials and these facilities are all at risk. There is significant concern that if the rate of incoming batteries is not reduced, there could be another major fire at a facility in Minnesota.

According to the recently published 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Waste & Recycling Facility Fires Report, the surge in lithium-ion battery incidents has now become a widespread reality across the waste and recycling stream. We have seen operators make meaningful progress through updated emergency plans, employee training, and new fire detection technologies; however, the scale of the problem **continues to grow**. The report estimates that in 2025, fires have caused more than \$2.5 billion in damages throughout the United States and Canada.

The bill as amended focuses on batteries and provides a clear and targeted approach to addressing one of the fastest-growing safety challenges in the waste stream.

The bill, as amended, establishes a comprehensive stewardship structure including convenient statewide collection, strong safety standards, and a producer-funded system. MRRA supports continued stakeholder engagement on implementation details, including the management of recalled batteries, to ensure the program functions effectively.

MRRA supports HF 1426, to improve safety and environmental benefits for Minnesotans. Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve Vrchota, Chair  
Minnesota Resource Reco

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Vrchota".

very Association

March 26, 2026

Representative Peter Fischer  
Co-Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support – H.F. 1426, Battery Product Stewardship**

Dear Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

Electronic waste and batteries must be kept out of the mixed municipal solid waste stream and disposal facilities. Waste facilities are seeing increases in fires due to growing numbers of lithium-ion batteries being placed in trash and recycling and are struggling to manage the associated liability issues. Additionally, keeping these materials out of the waste stream reduces waste toxicity and helps prevent risks to the environment and public health, all while recovering valuable products and critical materials for reuse and recycling.

Current laws are outdated and leave financial and operational burdens on counties and taxpayers. This is contrary to the original purpose of these statutes, which were written to hold manufacturers responsible. These statutes also do not adequately account for the significant change over the years in the nature and types of electronics and rechargeable batteries that consumers purchase.

The Partnership on Waste and Energy supports legislative action, as represented by the Delete Everything amendment to H.F. 1426, to update the various existing battery laws and put responsibility for managing loose batteries—including those that can be easily removed from battery-containing products—on the industries producing them. Changes made to existing laws need to reflect the current nature of battery-related products and provide flexibility for an evolving marketplace.

The Delete Everything amendment is designed around our residents who lack accessibility to collection options and quality information on keeping battery products out of trash and recycling bins and getting them to a site for recycling or safe management. This bill also includes important tools of enforcement and authority to ensure abandoned waste is properly managed and costs are covered.

Thank you, Chair Fischer, for hearing this bill and the Delete Everything amendment. We encourage a thoughtful evaluation of proposed changes and advancement of a bill that makes recycling batteries more convenient and less costly for consumers and relieves burdens and risks on counties and taxpayers. We also look forward to future discussions to address the challenges of electronic waste

RE: Partnership support for H.F. 1426

and battery-containing electronic devices not currently addressed in the Delete Everything amendment.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County  
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy



An exploded and charred battery.



A solid waste fire caused by a battery.



March 25, 2026

Representative Peter Fischer, Co-Chair  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
5th Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Josh Heintzeman, Co-Chair  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Support for Battery Extended Producer Responsibility Bill – H.F. 1426**

Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Heintzeman, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Olmsted County Environmental Resources, I am writing in strong support of H.F. 1426, the Battery Stewardship (Extended Producer Responsibility) legislation.

Batteries are one of the fastest growing and most problematic materials in the solid waste stream. As their use has expanded across consumer products, so have the challenges they present to local waste systems. Lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries are a leading cause of fires at solid waste facilities, including material recovery facility (MRF) operations, transfer stations, and landfills. These incidents pose serious risks to employee safety, costly damage to infrastructure, and disrupt operations. In addition, batteries contain hazardous materials that require specialized handling and are not appropriate for disposal in traditional solid waste systems.

Despite ongoing education and household hazardous waste programs, local governments cannot keep pace with the volume and complexity of battery waste. The current system relies heavily on taxpayer-funded programs and voluntary participation, placing the financial and operational burden on counties and ratepayers rather than on the producers who design and distribute these products.

H.F. 1426 provides a practical and effective solution by establishing a producer-funded, statewide battery stewardship program. The bill requires producers to participate in an organized system that ensures convenient collection, safe management, and proper

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recycling of covered batteries across Minnesota. It also includes requirements for accessibility, education, performance standards, and full cost coverage by producers, creating a more equitable and sustainable framework.

From an operational standpoint, this legislation will reduce fire risks, improve facility safety, and protect critical infrastructure. From a policy perspective, it aligns with Minnesota's waste management hierarchy and advances responsible product stewardship.

Olmsted County Environmental Resources strongly supports H.F. 1426 and encourages its passage. This legislation is a necessary step to address a growing safety and environmental issue while ensuring that responsibility is appropriately shared across the product lifecycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathleen Hall  
Director, Environmental Resources  
Olmsted County