



March 25, 2026

Minnesota Senate
Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: Battery Recycling(SF1690)

Dear Chair Klein 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 SF1690.

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.

SF1690 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 SF1690. 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.

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

Alliance for Sustainability	St Luke Presbyterian Church
Beyond Plastics Mankato Area	Upstream Exhibits, Saint Paul, MN
City of Lakeland	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
Clean Water Action	Vadnais Heights Green Team
Coalition for Plastic Reduction MN	WaterLegacy
CURE	
Edina Community Lutheran Church	
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	
Sierra Club North Star Chapter	
Sonorous Love, Minneapolis, MN	