



April 8 2026

Minnesota Senate  
Environment, Climate & Legacy

**Re: Battery Recycling(SF1690)**

Dear Chair Hawj 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](http://www.mnzerowaste.org).

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

Alliance for Sustainability  
Beyond Plastics Mankato Area  
City of Lakeland  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition for Plastic Reduction MN  
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  
Northern Minnesota New Iron and Clean Energy  
Northeast Metro Climate Action  
Peter's Family Lawn Snow, Saint Paul, MN  
Recycling Electronics for Climate Action (RECA)  
Repowered  
Resilient Cities & Communities  
Reuse Minnesota  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Sonorous Love, Minneapolis, MN  
St Luke Presbyterian Church  
Upstream Exhibits, Saint Paul, MN  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield  
Vadnais Heights Green Team  
WaterLegacy