



April 14, 2026

Minnesota Senate
Environment, Climate & Legacy

Re: Battery Recycling in SF4214a-1-DE

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 the inclusion of the Battery Recycling Stewardship program in the amended SF4214.

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.

The Battery Stewardship program 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 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
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