



September 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2440 (Irwin) Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge your signature of AB 2440 (Irwin), which would create a convenient, statewide, producer-run collection and recycling program for loose batteries.

Due to the hazardous metals and corrosive materials that batteries contain, California classifies batteries as hazardous waste and bans them from solid waste landfills. When consumers are done with their loose batteries, they must collect, sort, and ultimately find an appropriate disposal option. Unfortunately, California currently lacks a streamlined and convenient collection and recycling system for batteries.

Because of a combination of increased consumption and a lack of convenient disposal options, higher levels of toxic batteries are entering the waste stream. When improperly discarded, lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries in particular pose serious fire, health, and safety hazards. The influx of improperly disposed of Li-ion batteries into the waste stream has resulted in an alarming number of materials recovery facilities (MRFs), waste collection trucks, and landfills experiencing fires.

A 2018 California Product Stewardship Council survey found that 20 of the 26 MRFs surveyed experienced at least one fire during the previous two years, 65% of which were attributed to discarded batteries and 40% of those batteries were identified as Li-ion.¹

For the average consumer, it can often be difficult to distinguish between chemistries of batteries, such as alkaline, nickel cadmium, and Li-ion. Therefore, to ensure the proper disposal of all battery chemistries and reduce the fire and safety risk, AB 2440 would require free collection for loose batteries at convenient locations across the state. AB 2440 would also encourage manufacturers to be more responsible for the life cycle of their products by creating a producer-run program. Lastly, AB 2440 would support a circular

¹ California Product Stewardship Council, (2021). CPSC Battery Fire Report.

economy by battery recycling to the extent that is economically and technically feasible.

Manufacturers must be more responsible for the batteries they create if we are going to protect our workers, communities, the environment, and waste management infrastructure from battery-related fires.

For these reasons, we urge your signature of AB 2440 (Irwin).

Sincerely,



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Executive Director
RethinkWaste



Doug Kobold
Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council




Nick Lapis
Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste



Charles Helget

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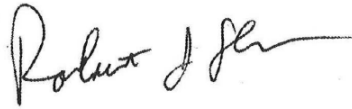
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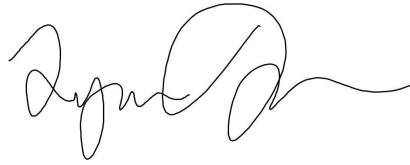
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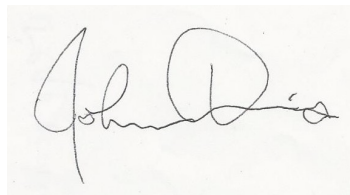
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