



June 24, 2026

The Honorable Assemblymember Bryan, Chair  
 Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
 1020 N Street, Room 164  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject:**

Dear Chair Bryan,

We, the undersigned, write to express our **strong support for SB 501 (Allen)**, as amended June 1, 2026, which will add medium-format batteries to California’s existing Responsible Battery Recycling Act and thereby expand an existing program to include more products and require the producers of those products to provide a convenient collection and management system for Californians.

The Legislature has been aware of the problems associated with battery disposal for years, passing AB 2440 (Irwin) and SB 1215 (Newman) in 2022. AB 2440 requires the producers of loose batteries to set up a producer-run take-back program in California while SB 1215 adds battery embedded products to the state’s e-waste program. **Now is the perfect time to add medium format batteries to the regulations implementing AB 2440 before they are finalized, further saving money by increasing efficiencies.**

Traditional batteries have been required to be collected separately and managed as universal waste for many years, but chemistries like lithium ion have significantly increased collection and management costs for local governments and caused fires that pose significant risks to essential workers, infrastructure (such as trucks and recycling facilities), and the environment. Local governments are responsible for the operation of local household hazardous waste collection

programs, which offer residents free drop-off opportunities for household hazardous waste, including batteries, but the costs associated with managing newer and larger batteries have quickly escalated and are unsustainable. These programs are expensive and put serious financial pressure on both the programs and local governments that operate them. Medium-format batteries like those used in e-bikes, scooters, and hoverboards are much larger than conventional batteries but aren't covered under the state's existing stewardship and recycling programs yet pose a significant fire risk if disposed of improperly.

Local governments and the solid waste industry have no control over which products will be introduced into the marketplace. SB 501 ensures that manufacturers of these larger batteries bear financial responsibility for the management and disposal of the products they introduce into the stream of commerce. By doing so and making proper disposal opportunities more convenient and affordable for residents, SB 501 will incentivize manufacturers to make those products safer and easier to manage at the end of their useful lives.

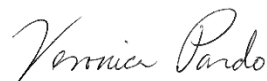
NSAC's Executive Director Heidi Sanborn chaired the [California Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#), which was comprised of 16 experts representing materials management companies, local governments, unions, and NGOs. The Commission unanimously recommended that the legislature, "pass EPR framework legislation to establish and maintain a convenient and fully funded recovery system for all hazardous products - including residuals and their containers as they are contaminants to other recycling/composting streams." According to the Commission, "in the absence of such a system, the variety and volume of hazards in the discard and recovery streams continues to expand," which can endanger our materials management workers. Batteries are one of the most dangerous products that still require a statewide management plan and funding program to collect and properly recycle, which will additionally support sustainable supply chains for metals needed to make the next generation of products.

For these reasons and more, we **strongly support SB 501 as amended June 1, 2026**, and respectfully urge your Aye vote.

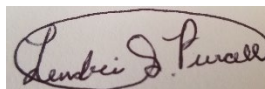
Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director  
National Stewardship Action Council



Veronica Pardo, Executive Director  
Resource Recovery Coalition of CA



Lendri Purcell, President  
FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical  
and Toxic Safety



Shira Lane, CEO  
Atrium 916

Tracie Onstad Bills, Executive Director  
California Resource Recovery Association  
(CRRA)

Shell Cleave, Founder  
Sea Hugger

Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Marin

Jim Lindburg, Legislative Consultant  
Friends Committee on Legislation of  
California

Tony Hackett, Policy Associate  
Californians Against Waste

Tim Dewey-Mattia, Recycling & Public  
Education Manager  
Napa Recycling & Waste Services

Jackie Nunez, Founder  
The Last Plastic Straw

Cheryl Auger, President  
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)

Dianna Cohen, Co-Founder & CEO  
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Gabriela Facio, Senior Policy Strategist  
Sierra Club California

Leslie Tamminen, Earth Sciences Director  
7<sup>th</sup> Generation Advisors

Scott Scholz, General Manager  
Western Placer Waste Management  
Authority

Melissa Jung, Reuse Networks Manager  
Upstream

James Moore, Director  
Merced County Regional Waste  
Management Authority

Emily Parker, Marine Scientist  
Heal the Bay



Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director  
StopWaste



Julia Mangin, Director of Sustainability and  
Government Affairs  
Recology



Joe LaMariana, Executive Director  
ReThink Waste



Suzanne Hume, Educational Director &  
Founder  
CleanEarth4Kids.org



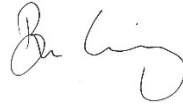
Sarah Elrich, Policy Advisor  
Center for Environmental Health



Freddy Coronado, President  
Northern California Recycling Association



Alison Waliszewski, Director of Regional  
Policy & Program Development  
5 Gyres



Ben Eichenberg, Staff Attorney  
San Francisco Baykeeper



Marco Gonzalez, Executive Director  
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation  
(CERF)



Mackenzie Wieser, CEO  
Sacramento Splash



Jenn Engstrom, State Director  
California Public Interest Research Group  
(CalPIRG)



Marie Powers, Executive Assistant  
Marin Sanitary Services



Mike Caprio, Director of Government  
Affairs  
Republic Services



Leslie Robinson, Program Director  
County of Santa Barbara Resource Recovery  
& Waste Management Division



Paul Freund, Agency Manager  
Tehama County Solid Waste Management  
Agency



Lisa Puckett, CEO/CCO  
NETZERO360 Sustainable Waste Solutions



Curtis Larkin, Chair  
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Felipe Melchor, General Manager  
ReGen Monterey



Andria Ventura, Legislative and Policy  
Director  
Clean Water Action



Michael Gross, Owner  
Gross Garbage Group



Mary Lyn Baker, Owner  
DH Casters



Dylan de Thomas, Vice President Public  
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The Recycling Partnership



Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities



Mearah Paramasivum, Founder  
Sagebrook Advisors



Christina Pestoni, Director of Government  
Affairs  
Waste Connections



Jordan Wells, Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties

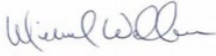


David Bender, Chief Executive Officer  
Circular Polymers

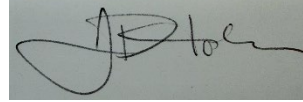


David Levine, President  
American Sustainable Business Council

Brian Waters, President & CEO  
Atlas Disposal



Michael Wellborn, President of the Board  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks



Jeff Holden, Founder & Host  
The Nonprofit Podcast Network



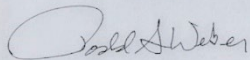
Krista Bernasconi, Mayor  
City of Roseville



John Marchand, Mayor  
City of Livermore



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma



Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-Leader  
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern  
California (NorCal) Chapter



Richard Burke, Founder, Chapter Leader  
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern  
California (SoCal) Chapter



Huy Le, Senior Toxics Reduction Program  
Coordinator  
San Francisco Environment Department