



September 1, 2026

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

Subject: SB 501 (Allen): Responsible Battery Recycling Act – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Honorable Governor Newsom,

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

The Legislature has been aware of the problems associated with battery caused fires 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 since 2007, but newer chemistries specifically lithium

ion have significantly increased fires and collection and management costs and 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 (HHW) collection programs, which offer residents free drop-off opportunities for HHW, 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 the producers of these larger batteries who profit from their sale bear financial responsibility for the management and disposal of the products they introduce into the market. 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.

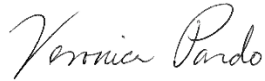
NSAC's CEO Heidi Sanborn chaired the [California Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#), which was comprised of 16 experts representing materials management companies, local governments, unions, and NGOs. The Commission unanimously recommended that the legislature, "pass EPR framework 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 endanger our materials management workers and drive-up insurance costs. Medium format 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 and keep costs down by preventing fires, damage, and safety concerns.

For these reasons and more, we **strongly support SB 501** and respectfully request your signature.

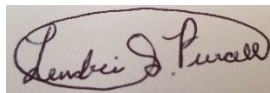
Sincerely,



Heidi Sanborn, CEO
National Stewardship Action Council



Veronica Pardo, Executive Director
Resource Recovery Coalition of CA



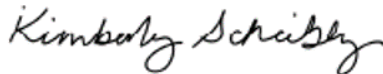
Lendri Purcell, President
FACTS Families Advocating for
Chemical and Toxic Safety



Shira Lane, CEO
Atrium 916



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



Kimberly Scheibly, Executive Director
Zero Waste Marin



Tony Hackett, Policy Associate
Californians Against Waste



Jackie Nunez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw



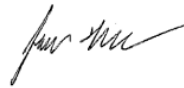
Dianna Cohen, Co-Founder & CEO
Plastic Pollution Coalition



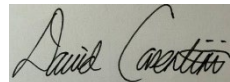
Leslie Tamminen, Earth Sciences
Director
7th Generation Advisors



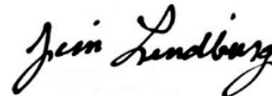
Melissa Jung, Reuse Networks
Manager
Upstream



James Moore, Director
Merced County Regional Waste
Management Authority



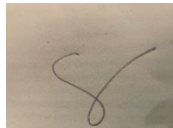
David Casentini, Chair
Sea Hugger



Jim Lindburg, Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of
California



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



Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)



Gabriela Facio, Senior Policy
Strategist
Sierra Club California



Scott Scholz, General Manager
Western Placer 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



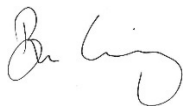
Sarah Elrich, Policy Advisor
Center for Environmental Health



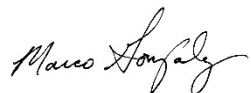
Freddy Coronado, President
Northern California Recycling
Association



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



Curtis Larkin, Chair
SWANA California Chapters
Legislative Task Force



Andria Ventura, Legislative and
Policy Director
Clean Water Action



Dylan de Thomas, Vice President
Public Policy & Government Affairs
The Recycling Partnership



Mearah Paramasivum, Founder
Sagebrook Advisors



Jordan Wells, Legislative Advocate
California State Association of
Counties



David Levine, President
American Sustainable Business
Council



Lisa Puckett, CEO/CCO
NETZERO360 Sustainable Waste
Solutions



Felipe Melchor, General Manager
ReGen Monterey



Michael Gross, Owner
Gross Garbage Group



Mary Lyn Baker, Owner
DH Casters



Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Legislative
Advocate
League of California Cities

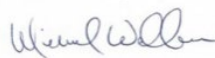


Christina Pestoni, Director of
Government Affairs
Waste Connections



David Bender, Chief Executive
Officer
Circular Polymers

Brian Waters, President & CEO
Atlas Disposal



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



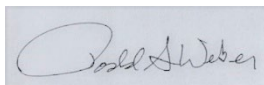
Krista Bernasconi, Mayor
City of Roseville



John Marchand, Mayor
City of Livermore



Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Zero Waste Sonoma



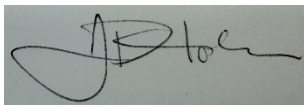
Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-
Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern
California (NorCal) Chapter



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



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



Jeff Holden, Founder & Host
The Nonprofit Podcast Network